

INTRODUCTION: Why “Romans”?

- **To know God more clearly** 5:8

Knowing a person by the most extravagant thing he ever did for you

His character: a 400' yacht; a condo in Las Vegas; an orphanage in Africa

His intentions for you: 15:13 Filled with “all joy and peace” → “abounding in hope”

- **To know how to explain the good news more clearly** 1:1, 9, 15,16

“MKGG”

2006! More “All About Missions” + Impacting London: sight-seeing + blueprints

MKGG So 11 weeks not 11 months: A handle; A grasp

We should be people who are (1:16) “not ashamed” == and who don't need to be ashamed II

Timothy 2:15

First, The Bad News

To appreciate the good news

Good news of money: “debt”? / Good news of a cure: “disease”? / Good news of life: “dying”? “dead”?

1. **The “good news” is about being right with God** 1:17 (5:1; 8:1; 15:13)

“Righteous” = “right in God's view” → Naturally religious but not naturally God-centred: **REPENTANCE!**

2. **Being right with God requires a very unlikely miracle** Extraordinary / supernatural / miraculous good news!!!

- a) **A miracle, because of the wrath of God** 1:18

An idea many people have trouble with! → “If he insists on existing → the decency to be infinitely lenient!”

Perhaps a change of perspective is required! “Old Testament”? “Jesus”???

(John 3:36) John the Baptist: “...if you don't obey Jesus, the wrath of God abides on you.”

To appreciate the Good News → the Bad News: Does God have the right to be angry? (Angry with God?)

- b) **An unlikely miracle because of what has provoked His wrath: suppressing the truth about Him**

Why is God angry with the human race?

18 ...suppress the truth in unrighteousness

19 that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

[and we pretend that He hasn't!]

21 ...even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks

25 ...they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator

[Idol worship: man-made religion/ all irreligious living: all sorts of idols]

This is ONE THING that makes the miracle so unlikely: We are extremely unlikely candidates for this miracle, because it's a miracle of relationship restoring... and we have been undoing the relationship all our lives!

As if antibiotics are required—and we have been insulting the manufacturer

Or surgery is required: only one surgeon → you have been calling him a quack and teaching people to distrust him.

Or you are in serious financial difficulty → the only rich person in town is the owner of a factory that you have been protesting against for years.

PERSONAL OPINION → What is true of the human race historically is more-or-less true of each of us experientially.

We shut God out... that is, the real God: who has opinions about our private life and what we should do with our time and our talent and our money and our life...

c) An **unlikely** miracle because of what God in His wrath has done to human hearts and minds

1:24-32

The other reason why this good news is such an unlikely miracle → A sad reality: we reap what we sow
Our behavior has consequences:

If we are stupid with our money, there will be consequences --- we'll have money problems

If we are sloppy about our health, there will be consequences --- our health will be ruined

If we are negligent with our relationships, there will be consequences --- our relationships will get worse and worse

If we ignore God, there will be consequences... And here's the Bad News: the consequences of suppressing the truth

24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity

26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions

28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind...

So here is an insight into what is going on in the world that you only get from the Bible:

The Real Bad News *"God is not as angry as He is because people are so sinful;
rather people are as sinful as they are because God is so angry."*

The human race is reaping what it has sown: That's our Bad News!

Now, with impure hearts and depraved minds:

Now addicted to disobedience and ruined morally and spiritually,
the miracle we need is less likely than ever!

The miracle of God's kindness and forgiveness is totally unlikely and desperately required!
(A deadly combination!)

So here is the beginning of the gospel: here is the Good News.

This is the bad news that makes the Good News so amazing... that makes God's grace so amazing!

This is the Bad News we need to grasp in order to grasp --- and understand and appreciate...

Romans 5

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
...while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son

This is the Bad News we need to grasp in order to grasp --- and understand and appreciate...

Romans 8

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.