

GRACE: THE TRUTH THAT TRANSFORMS

MAN - INNOCENT OR GUILTY (Romans 1:18-32) Talk-it-Over Notes | February 21-22, 2026

REVIEW IT

This section of Romans is the “dark felt” behind the diamond of the gospel. It’s useful to see it as a courtroom... The charge? Mankind has deliberately rejected God and fallen into sin. God’s wrath — His settled anger toward sin — is being revealed against the godlessness and wickedness of people. Godlessness: Living as though God doesn’t exist. Wickedness: Living without any relational rules.

Three counts of godlessness: 1) Man represses the truth about God. 2) Man rejects the truth about God. 3) Man replaces the truth about God with an idol.

Three counts of wickedness: 1) Man is given over to immoral passions. 2) Indecent perversions
3) Irrational practices.

What can save us from the wrath of God on our godlessness and wickedness that ends in death? What can rescue us before we hit the ground? — Christ’s death. (Romans 5:8-9)

Spend some time in the word: **Read Romans 1:18-32 in a couple of different translations.**

- New International Version (NIV) - New Living Translation (NLT) (The Bible App or BibleGateway.com can help you do this)

TALK ABOUT IT

1. As you read through the descriptions of godlessness and wickedness, what stands out to you personally, and why do you think it does?
2. When in your life have you believed a lie and disobeyed God, or when has your desire for something overpowered your desire to obey him? What happened as a result?
3. This scripture teaches that the primary thing Jesus saves us from is the wrath of God. How does this differ from other common understandings of what we need salvation from?
4. What steps can we take personally to avoid "approving" of things that end in death, and instead celebrate and pursue God’s grace?
5. What do you think? Is mankind guilty or innocent of deliberately rejecting God?

ACT ON IT

This week, intentionally worship God above all else by identifying anything in your life that may have become an idol—whether it’s *crude* or *cultured*—and take a practical step to put God first. This could mean setting aside daily time for prayer and gratitude, confessing misplaced priorities, giving to God before other things. Let the grace of God, not the “dark felt” of godlessness to define your priorities and actions. (Colossians 3:5)

PRAY ABOUT IT

Take time to ask how you can pray for and support one another in prayer. Then, close in prayer.