







Christianity Confronts Culture



# Christianity Confronts Culture

*Serving Christ, Challenging The World*



Christianity Confronts Culture

**Thurs** C<sup>3</sup> - Moses, Christ, Paul and You

**Fri** C<sup>3</sup> - Christianity Must Confront Culture: Why?

**Sat** C<sup>3</sup> - The God-Haters

**Sun class** C<sup>3</sup> - Truth Decay

**Sun am** C<sup>3</sup> - The Gospel Demands Changed Lives

**Sun pm** C<sup>3</sup> - Turning The World Upside Down



# Godhaters

*how Romans 1:28-32 applies to me*

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## *General Outline*

- Background of Romans
- Introduction of text
- Word study
- Principles
- Application





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## *Background of Romans - 1*

- “non-specific” occasional letter (cf. Cor / Gal)
- general purposes
  - prepare for Phoebe’s / Paul’s arrival (15-16)
  - establish Roman Christians (1:11)
  - exhortation -> harmony (14-15)
- doctrinal emphasis (general)
  - (*saving gospel*) of faith -> righteousness (1:5, 14ff; 16:26)
  - faith -> obedience -> righteousness (5:18ff)





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## *Background of Romans - 2*

- doctrinal emphasis on sin
  - the sins of the Roman / Gentile world (1)
  - the sins of the Jews (2)
  - the sins of all men (3)
- doctrinal emphasis on salvation (principles)
  - salvation not by law or the works of the law (3)
  - justification apart from the law (3)





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## *Background of Romans - 3*

- doctrinal emphasis on salvation (principles)
  - justification by faith (for Abraham - 4)
  - justification by faith (for Romans / all - 5ff)
  - principle of justification (Christ - 5:6ff)
  - grace through righteousness (5:21)
- doctrinal emphasis on salvation (practice)
  - imitating Christ's obedience (baptism - 6:1ff)
  - imitating Christ's life (righteousness - 6:14ff)





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## *Background of Romans - 4*

- imitating Christ's life
  - freedom from the law of Moses (7)
  - freedom from sin by faith (8)
  - freedom from sin through the Spirit (8)
  - freedom to suffer (8)
  - suffering -> glory (8)





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## *Background of Romans - 5*

- hope of glory (8-15)
  - for Israel (9-11)
  - for all (12-13)
    - sacrifice (12)
    - submission to authority (13)
    - requires liberty (14-15:4)
    - requires mutual co-operation (12, 15:4-13)





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## *The text of Romans 1:28-32 - 1*

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”





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## *The text of Romans 1:28-32 - 2*

- culmination of “changes”
  - a “changed” God (1:23)
  - a “changed” truth / gospel (1:25)
  - a “changed” life / world (1:26ff)
- to whom does Romans 1 apply
  - Roman / Gentile “atheists”
  - Roman / Gentile Christians
  - contemporary application (them and / or us)





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■ *The text of Romans 1:28-32 - 3*

- Roman / Gentile “atheists” - **yes**
- Roman / Gentile Christians - **yes**
- contemporary atheists - **yes**
- contemporary Christians - **yes**





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■ *The text of Romans 1:28-32 - 4*

- Christians then / Christians now
  - not for Abraham (4:23; 15:4)
  - OT examples for Corinthians (1 Cor 9:10; 10:1ff)
  - Timothy's faith (2 Tim 3:14ff)
  - Hebrew Christian's faith (Heb 11-12)
  - ultimately / eschatologically - for all (Mt 28; 2 Tim 4; 2 Pet 3; Rev 22)





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## *Word Study - 1*

- debased mind - *adokimos*<sup>8</sup> *nous* - not standing the test
- not fitting - *me katheko*<sup>2</sup> - fitting, to let down, lower
- filled with unrighteousness - *pleroo pas adikia*
- sexual immorality / fornication - *porneia*
- wickedness - *poneria*<sup>7</sup>
- covetousness - *pleonexia*<sup>10</sup> - greed, lust
- maliciousness - *kakia*<sup>11</sup> - evil, trouble, hateful feelings, wickedness
- full of envy - *mestos phthonos*<sup>9</sup>





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## Word Study - 2

- murder - *phonos*<sup>10</sup>/*pheno* - murder, slaughter
- strife - *eris*<sup>9</sup> - contention, strife, wrangling
- deceit - *dollos*<sup>12</sup>/*delo* - decoy, craft, deceit, guile, treachery
- evil-mindedness - *kakoetheia*<sup>1</sup> - evil done for evil, malignant subtlety
- whisperers - *psithuristes*<sup>1</sup> - gossips, harmful gossips
- backbiters - *katalalos*<sup>1</sup> - slanderers
- haters of God - *theostuges*<sup>1</sup> - hating (hateful to) God
- violent - *hubristes*<sup>2</sup> - insolent, prideful





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## Word Study - 3

- proud - *huperephanos*<sup>5</sup> - proud, arrogant
- boasters - *alazon*<sup>2</sup> - boaster, arrogant boaster, imposter
- inventors - *epheurites*<sup>1</sup> - inventor, one who schemes
- **dis**obedient - *apeithes*<sup>6</sup> - impersuasible, rebellious
- **u**ndiscerning - *asunetos*<sup>5</sup> - w/o understanding, dull, senseless, foolish
- **u**ntrustworthy - *asunthetos*<sup>1</sup> - covenant breakers, faithless
- **u**nloving - *astorgos*<sup>2</sup> - without natural affection, inhuman
- **u**nforgiving - *aspondos*<sup>2\*</sup> - w/o treaty / covenant





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## Word Study - 4

- **u**nmerciful - *aneleemon*<sup>1</sup>
- knowing judgment - *epiginosko dikaioma*<sup>10</sup> - ordinance, requirements, righteous deeds, regulations
- practice such things - *prasso* - exercise, carry on
- deserving of death - *axios thanatou* - befitting, worthy
- do the same - *poieo*
- approve of those who practice - *suneudokeo*<sup>6</sup> - approve, pleasure, consent





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## *Principles - 1*

- they / we know better
  - knowing judgment
  - undiscerning
- they / we do it anyway
  - do the same • approve of those who practice • disobedient
- selfish, not selfless
  - covetous • full of envy • proud • boasters • violent





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## *Principles - 2*

- it is beneath us and what God desires for us
  - debased / reprobate • not fitting •
- it is against God's nature
  - unrighteousness • fornication • wickedness •
  - maliciousness • murder • strife
- it rejects God's will / word / work / world
  - undiscerning • untrustworthy





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## *Principles - 3*

- it rejects God's character
- evil-mindedness (evil just for evil) • unmerciful • filled with unrighteousness • unloving • unforgiving • unmerciful
- it "creates" a world where our will / word / work reigns
- deceit • boasters • inventors





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## *Application*

- Gradations of faith / faithless
  - Solomon • Asa • Joash • Amaziah • Azariah
  - we must be faithful in all things
- False worlds are not real worlds
  - we must always compare “our worlds” with God’s
  - where they vary, we must “move” to God’s world
- We don’t have to be atheists to be faithless
  - saying there is “no God” =’s saying “no” to God



