

ROMANS

THE BIG
QUESTION



The Big Question

Answers for a Broken World

Introduction

There are questions that do not need to be explained because every human heart already understands them. One of those questions is this: why does the world feel so broken?

It can be seen in the headlines, in families, in cities, in relationships, in the human mind, and even in the private places of the soul. There is violence in the streets, division among people, anxiety in hearts, loneliness in crowded rooms, confusion about identity, broken homes, moral chaos, selfish ambition, and a deep spiritual emptiness that no achievement seems able to cure.

The world feels broken because it is broken.

This brokenness is not new. It did not begin with modern politics, technology, social media, war, cultural change, or generational conflict. The world has been broken since sin entered creation. What is seen today is not merely a social problem, a psychological problem, or a political problem. It is a spiritual problem.

Romans 1 gives one of the clearest explanations in Scripture for why humanity is in this condition. It reveals that God has made Himself known, but humanity has suppressed the truth. It shows that people have exchanged the glory of the Creator for created things. It exposes the consequences of worshiping anything other than God. But it also points toward the only hope strong enough to restore what sin has destroyed.

The message of Romans is not only that the world is broken. The message of Romans is that Jesus came for broken people.

Chapter 1

God Has Revealed Himself to the World

Romans 1 begins with a powerful truth: God has not hidden Himself from humanity.

Creation itself testifies that there is a Creator. The sunrise, the stars, the order of the universe, the design of life, the beauty of

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nature, and the moral conscience inside the human heart all point beyond themselves. They declare that existence is not an accident. There is order because there is intelligence. There is beauty because there is glory. There is moral awareness because there is a holy God.

The visible world points to invisible realities.

God's eternal power and divine nature can be seen through what He has made. The heavens do not merely decorate the sky. They preach. The earth does not merely sustain life. It bears witness. Every created thing points beyond itself to the One who created it.

This means humanity is not without evidence. The problem is not that God has failed to reveal Himself. The problem is that people often do not want the God who has revealed Himself.

Romans 1 says that people suppress the truth in unrighteousness. This is an important distinction. The issue is not simply ignorance. It is resistance. The truth is pressed down, avoided, dismissed, redefined, or replaced because acknowledging God means acknowledging His authority.

If there is a Creator, then creation belongs to Him.

If there is a holy God, then humanity is accountable to Him.

If there is divine truth, then human desire cannot be the final authority.

This is where the human heart rebels. People want meaning without surrender. They want morality without accountability. They want purpose without submission. They want the benefits of God without the lordship of God.

But a world that rejects the Creator will always lose its way.

Chapter 2

The Wrath of God Is Not Human Anger

Romans 1 speaks clearly about the wrath of God. This can be difficult for many people because human beings often misunderstand wrath. When people hear the word wrath, they often

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think of uncontrolled anger, emotional outbursts, revenge, bitterness, or cruelty.

But God's wrath is not like human anger.

Human anger is often selfish. God's wrath is holy.

Human anger is often unstable. God's wrath is righteous.

Human anger is often driven by pride. God's wrath is rooted in justice.

Human anger often destroys without purpose. God's wrath confronts what is already destroying His creation.

God's wrath exists because God is good.

If God looked at evil, abuse, deception, violence, corruption, exploitation, and rebellion and felt nothing, He would not be righteous. If God ignored sin, He would not be just. If God treated wickedness as harmless, He would not be holy.

The wrath of God is His settled opposition against sin. It is His righteous response to everything that destroys what He created good.

Sin is not a small mistake. It is not merely poor judgment. It is not simply personal preference. Sin is rebellion against God, and it brings destruction into the human soul, into relationships, into families, into societies, and into the world.

God takes sin seriously because sin destroys what He loves.

The brokenness of the world is not proof that God is absent. It is proof that humanity has turned from the God who gives life.

Chapter 3

Humanity Suppressed the Truth

Romans 1 reveals that the problem is not a lack of truth. The problem is suppression of truth.

To suppress something is to hold it down. It is to resist what is trying to rise. The truth about God rises through creation,

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conscience, Scripture, and the deep hunger of the soul. But fallen humanity works to push that truth away.

This suppression can take many forms.

Some suppress the truth through pride, refusing to admit dependence on God.

Some suppress the truth through intellectual arguments that are less about honest searching and more about avoiding surrender.

Some suppress the truth through pleasure, staying distracted enough to never face the emptiness within.

Some suppress the truth through ambition, building a life so full of achievement that there is no room for repentance.

Some suppress the truth through religion, wanting the appearance of spirituality without true submission to Christ.

The human heart does not naturally drift toward God. It drifts toward self-rule.

This is why Romans 1 is so honest. It does not flatter humanity. It does not treat people as basically pure with minor imperfections. It reveals that the deepest human problem is not external. It is internal.

People do not simply need better systems, better education, better environments, or better opportunities. Those things may help society, but they cannot cure sin. The root problem is that humanity has rejected the truth of God and chosen autonomy.

The world becomes dark when people turn away from the light.

Chapter 4

The Great Exchange

Romans 1 uses a powerful word: exchanged.

Humanity exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling created things. Humanity exchanged the truth of God for a lie. Humanity exchanged worship of the Creator for worship of creation.

This is the root of idolatry.

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Idolatry is not only bowing before statues. Idolatry is giving ultimate value, trust, devotion, and identity to anything other than God. An idol is anything created that takes the place of the Creator in the human heart.

Modern culture may not always build temples of stone, but it still builds temples.

There are temples of money.

Temples of fame.

Temples of success.

Temples of beauty.

Temples of sexuality.

Temples of entertainment.

Temples of politics.

Temples of sports.

Temples of self-expression.

Temples of personal freedom without moral responsibility.

People may not call these things gods, but they often live for them, sacrifice for them, defend them, fear losing them, and build their identity around them.

Whatever receives ultimate devotion becomes an object of worship.

The tragedy is that created things were never designed to carry the weight of worship. Money cannot save the soul. Fame cannot heal shame. Success cannot give eternal meaning. Pleasure cannot satisfy the deepest hunger. Approval cannot provide true identity. Self-worship cannot produce peace.

When people exchange God for created things, they do not become free. They become enslaved.

The exchange always leads downward.

Chapter 5

What Is Worshiping You Is Also Forming You

One of the most sobering truths of Romans 1 is that worship shapes the worshiper.

People become like what they worship.

When someone worships money, greed and envy begin to shape the heart. Life becomes measured by accumulation, comparison, and fear of loss.

When someone worships success, the soul becomes driven but empty. Achievement becomes addictive, but rest becomes impossible.

When someone worships approval, anxiety and insecurity take root. The opinions of others become a prison.

When someone worships pleasure, discipline weakens and desire becomes master.

When someone worships the self, life eventually collapses under the weight of self-importance, self-protection, self-definition, and self-obsession.

This is why idolatry is so destructive. It does not merely offend God. It deforms humanity.

People were created to worship God. When worship is directed toward anything less than God, the soul becomes disordered. The mind darkens. The heart hardens. Desires become distorted. Wisdom gives way to foolishness.

Romans 1 says that although people claimed to be wise, they became fools.

This is not because intelligence disappeared. A person can be intellectually brilliant and spiritually foolish. A culture can be technologically advanced and morally confused. A society can be wealthy, educated, entertained, and still deeply broken.

Wisdom begins with God. When God is rejected, even intelligence can become a tool for rebellion.

Chapter 6

When God Gives People Over

One of the most serious phrases in Romans 1 is that God “gave them over.”

This does not mean God stopped being sovereign. It means God allowed people to experience the consequences of the desires they insisted on pursuing.

Sometimes judgment looks like God interrupting human rebellion. But Romans 1 shows that judgment can also look like God allowing people to have what they demanded.

When people reject God repeatedly, God may give them over to their chosen path. He may allow a person, a culture, or a society to taste the consequences of life without Him.

This is terrifying because the human heart often mistakes this for freedom.

A person may think, “No one stopped me, so it must be right.”

A culture may think, “This is now accepted, so it must be good.”

A society may think, “This is celebrated, so it must be progress.”

But acceptance is not the same as righteousness.

Celebration is not the same as truth.

Freedom from restraint is not the same as freedom from destruction.

Romans 1 shows that when people reject God’s design, disorder follows. Desires become confused. Relationships become damaged. Bodies are dishonored. Minds become corrupted. What is shameful becomes celebrated. What is destructive becomes normalized.

The deepest danger is not only that people commit sin. It is that people begin to applaud sin.

When a culture not only practices rebellion but celebrates it, the moral compass has been inverted.

Chapter 7

The Symptoms of a Broken World

Romans 1 does not leave brokenness vague. It names the symptoms.

Unrighteousness.

Evil.

Greed.

Wickedness.

Envy.

Murder.

Quarreling.

Deceit.

Malice.

Gossip.

Slander.

Hatred toward God.

Arrogance.

Pride.

Boasting.

Inventing evil.

Disobedience.

Senselessness.

Untrustworthiness.

Lovelessness.

Lack of mercy.

This list is uncomfortable because it reaches everyone.

It is easy to look at the world and identify the sins of culture. It is harder to allow Scripture to identify the sins of the heart.

Romans 1 is not merely describing “those people out there.” It exposes the condition of fallen humanity. The brokenness in the world is the overflow of brokenness in human hearts.

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A culture becomes violent because human hearts are violent.
A society becomes greedy because human hearts are greedy.
Families break because human hearts are selfish.
Communities divide because human hearts are proud.
Truth collapses because human hearts prefer lies that protect their desires.

The world is not broken in the abstract. It is broken because people are broken.

This truth is painful, but it is also necessary. A person cannot seek healing while denying the wound. A culture cannot find restoration while pretending rebellion is freedom. A soul cannot receive grace while refusing to admit sin.

The bad news must be understood before the good news becomes beautiful.

Chapter 8

Why Jesus Is the Only Answer

The message of Romans does not end with human brokenness. It points to Jesus Christ as the only true answer.

Humanity rejected God, chose sin, and became broken. Jesus came to restore what sin destroyed.

At the cross, Jesus bore sin.

At the cross, justice was satisfied.

At the cross, mercy was extended.

At the cross, wrath and grace met.

At the cross, the holy God made a way for guilty sinners to be forgiven.

Jesus did not come because the world was healthy. He came because the world was dead in sin.

He did not come for people who had successfully repaired themselves. He came for those who could not fix their own souls.

He did not come merely to inspire moral improvement. He came to save.

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This is why the gospel is good news. It does not say, “Try harder and maybe God will accept you.” It says that Christ has done what sinners could never do for themselves.

Jesus lived the righteous life humanity failed to live.

Jesus died the death sinners deserved to die.

Jesus rose again, declaring victory over sin and death.

Jesus now invites broken people to be forgiven, restored, and made new.

The answer to the brokenness of the world is not denial. It is redemption.

Chapter 9

The Invitation to Stop Running

Romans reveals both the seriousness of sin and the mercy of God.

The invitation of the gospel is personal. It calls every person to stop running, stop suppressing, stop exchanging, and start trusting.

To confess Jesus as Lord means acknowledging His rightful authority. It means surrendering the illusion of self-rule. It means no longer treating personal desire as the highest law. It means bowing before Christ as Savior, King, and Lord.

To believe in the heart that God raised Him from the dead means trusting that Jesus is not merely a religious figure, moral teacher, or historical martyr. He is the risen Son of God. His resurrection means the payment was accepted, death was defeated, and new life is possible.

Salvation is not earned by religious performance.

It is not achieved by moral perfection.

It is not inherited through family tradition.

It is not secured by church attendance alone.

It is received by faith in Jesus Christ.

The invitation is not to pretend to be whole. The invitation is to bring brokenness to the One who restores.

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Some people are openly running from God. Others are quietly resisting Him. Some appear religious but have never truly surrendered. Some know the language of faith but still hold tightly to control.

The question is not whether the world is broken. The question is whether the heart has been surrendered to the only One who can make it new.

Chapter 10

From Brokenness to New Life

The gospel does not merely forgive the past. It creates a new future.

When a person comes to Christ, the brokenness of sin no longer has the final word. Shame is not the final identity. Guilt is not the final sentence. Rebellion is not the final story. Death is not the final destination.

Jesus restores.

He restores relationship with God.

He restores purpose.

He restores identity.

He restores hope.

He restores the soul from the inside out.

This does not mean life becomes easy. It does not mean temptation disappears. It does not mean believers never struggle, fail, or grieve. But it does mean that sin is no longer master. Christ becomes Lord. Grace becomes the foundation. The Spirit begins the work of transformation.

The broken world still groans, but the redeemed heart has hope.

The gospel does not call people to escape reality. It calls people to see reality clearly. The world is broken because of sin. Humanity has exchanged God for idols. The heart is disordered apart from Christ. But God has acted in mercy. Jesus has come. The cross has answered sin. The resurrection has opened the door to life.

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The invitation remains open.

Stop suppressing the truth.

Stop worshiping what cannot save.

Stop running from the God who already knows the brokenness.

Turn to Christ.

Trust Him.

Surrender to Him.

Find life in Him.

The world feels broken because it is.

But in Jesus Christ, broken people can be made new.

Conclusion

The Truth That Leads to Hope

Romans 1 is not comfortable, but it is merciful. It tells the truth about God, sin, humanity, culture, judgment, and brokenness. It removes the illusion that the world can heal itself while rejecting its Creator.

God has revealed Himself.

Humanity has suppressed the truth.

People have exchanged the Creator for created things.

Sin has disordered the heart and fractured the world.

But God has not abandoned sinners to hopelessness.

Jesus Christ is the answer to the brokenness of the human soul.

At the cross, He carried sin.

Through the resurrection, He conquered death.

By grace, He invites sinners to come home.

The world does not need a softer diagnosis. It needs the true cure.

The heart does not need another idol. It needs the living God.

The soul does not need to keep running. It needs to surrender.

There is forgiveness in Christ.

There is restoration in Christ.

There is new life in Christ.

And for every broken person, the invitation still stands.

