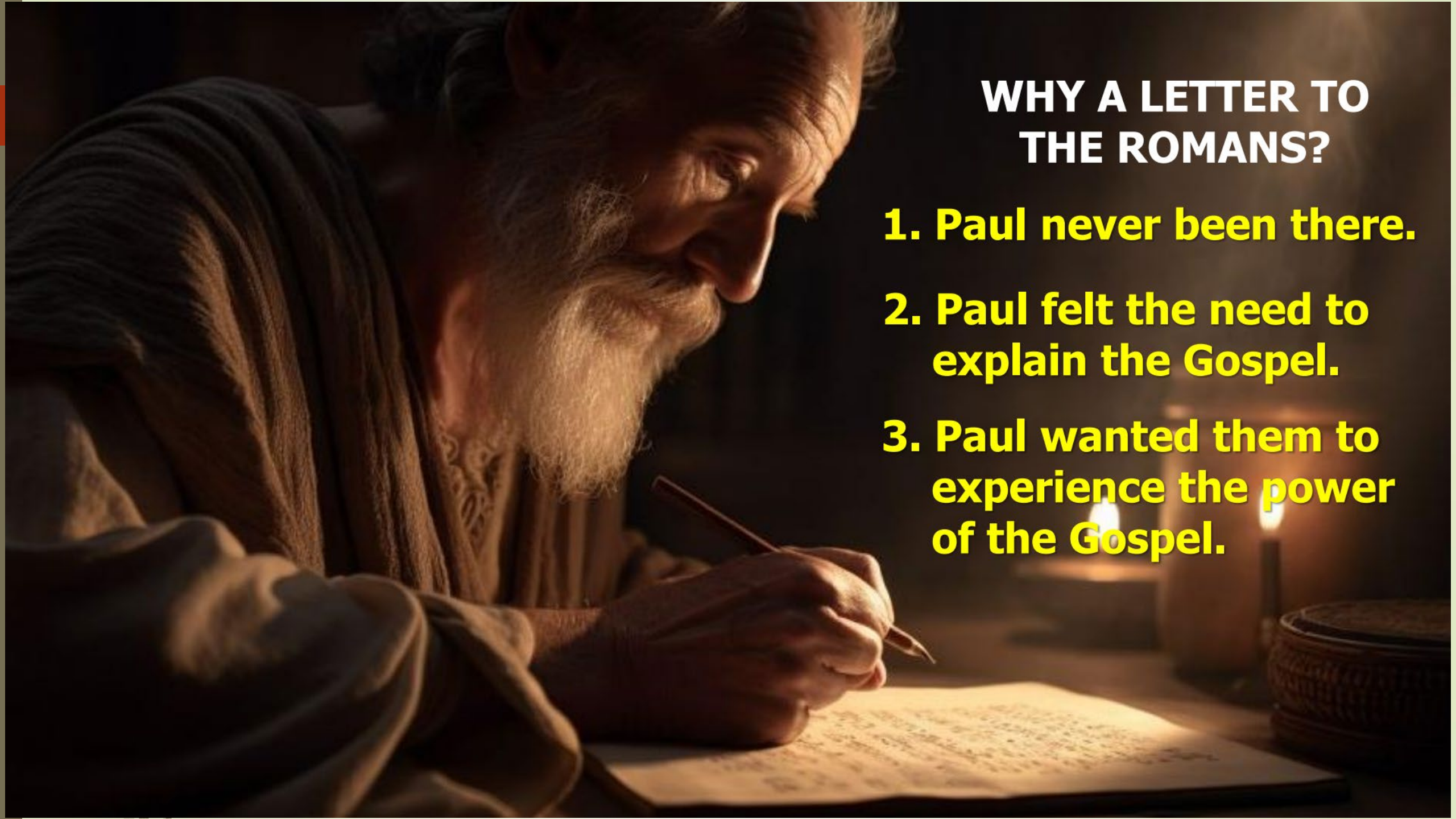


ROMANS

IN THE GRIP OF GRACE

**III: The Wrath of God
(Romans 1:18-32)**

9/28/2025

A close-up, low-angle shot of an elderly man with a long, flowing white beard and hair. He is wearing a dark, textured robe and is leaning over a desk, writing with a quill pen on a piece of parchment. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being a candle in a holder to the right, which casts a warm, golden glow on his face and the parchment. The background is dark and out of focus.

WHY A LETTER TO THE ROMANS?

- 1. Paul never been there.**
- 2. Paul felt the need to explain the Gospel.**
- 3. Paul wanted them to experience the power of the Gospel.**

the book of **ROMANS**

GOOD NEWS!

*The reality, danger,
and power of sin.*

Rom 1-2

*God's grace is real, amazing,
and available to all people.*

Rom 3-5

*God has broken our chains
and set us free, but the
battle with sin continues.*

Rom 6-8

Romans 1:16-17

(Key verses)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, [e] just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” (NIV Translation)

The Wrath of God

Chap. 1 follows with

- What is man's sinful nature (Gentiles)
- What is the Wrath of God

Is this the Wrath of God ?

6



The Wrath of God

Chap. 1 follows with

- What is man's sinful nature (Gentiles)
- What is the Wrath of God

AI: "The wrath of God" refers to God's righteous and just punishment of sin and ungodliness, a response to sin rather than an uncontrolled outburst of temper.

Romans 1: 18-20

¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

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Downward spiral of Sin

I. Intelligence

- Human history began with man knowing God
- Man knew the truth about God, who is eternal with the wisdom to plan and the power to create, but they turned from the truth and rejected God, even when creation is clearly visible. WHY?

Downward spiral of Sin

I. Intelligence

- Human history began with man knowing God
- Man knew the truth about God, who is eternal with the wisdom to plan and the power to create (everything), but they turned from the truth and rejected God, even when creation is clearly visible
- Men suppressed the truth so that they might live their own lives and not be convicted by God's truth
- By refusing to acknowledge God, they turn truth into a lie

Discussion Question

Do you feel God's creation indicates there is a wise planner, a powerful creator, who is eternal?
Do you agree **“people are without excuse”**

Romans 1:21-23

²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

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II. Ignorance (1: 21-23)

- Man knew God, but did not want to honor or glorify Him as God
- Man is willing to receive God's gifts, but not willing to worship and praise God for His blessings
- Having suppressed God's truth and refusing to acknowledge God's glory, man is left without a God.
- But man is constituted to worship. If not God, then what is the substitute?
 - #1 Substitute is ...
 - Other substitutes can be birds, beast and bugs (idols)

Discussion Question

- While this “spiral” was evident in Paul’s time, do you see any evidence of similar moral degeneration in our time?
- Do we easily give credit to others when we use or copy their work / idea? Or do we “justifiably plagiarize” other people’s original work and claim it to be ours?

Similarly, do we naturally give glory to God for blessings in our lives, or do we just take it shamelessly?

Romans 1: 24-27

- ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.
- ²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

III. Indulgence

- If man is his own God, then he can do whatever he pleases and fulfill his desires without fear of judgment
- When man exchanges the truth of God for the lie (“Ye shall be as God” Gen. 3:5), Satan receives the worship he longed for and man can turn to self-indulgence
- Self-deification / self indulgence can manifest itself as indulgence of the flesh (such as homosexuality)
- Because of these sinful degradations, “God gave them up” to their own sinful desires, to reap their due penalty.
- God revealed his wrath, not by sending fire from heaven, but by abandoning men to their own lustful ways

Discussion Question

Is our society struggling to survive, or ripe for self-indulgence?

What are some examples of self-indulgence, **in your life**?

How can you prevent yourself from falling into sinful consequences of self-indulgence?

Romans 1: 28-32

- ²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. ³² Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

IV. Impenitence

- Since they did not turn and acknowledge Him, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done
- Man not only continue to sin / commit more serious sins, but they also encourage and applaud others when they sin

Discussion Questions

- Are man naturally good? i.e., when men is left to themselves, will they become righteous?
 - Do we need to encourage / help each other, esp. when in difficult situations?
 - Is this a good reason to tell / show the good news to others ?
 - If we have God in our life, should we behave differently?
- How might this passage make you less ashamed of the gospel and more eager to preach it.

Romans 1:16-17

(Key verses)

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