

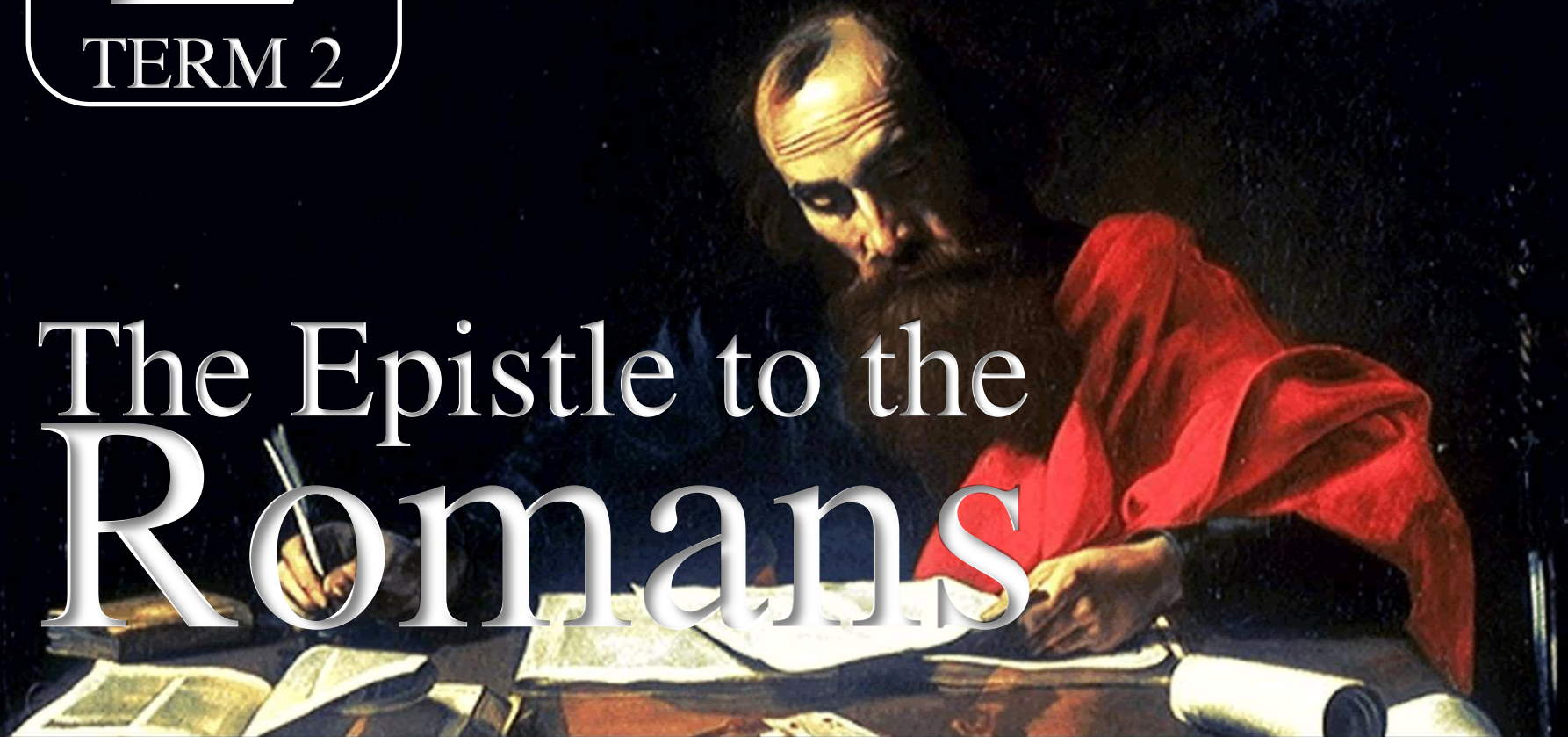


WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

2021
SESSION
2
TERM 2

WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

The Epistle to the
Romans



Romans Chapters 1-8 – Salvation:

- Justification
- Sanctification
- Glorification

Romans

Romans Chapters 9-11 – Israel

Romans Chapters 12-16 – Practical





'Cicero indicts Catiline before the Senate' by H. Schmidt, 1920.

'The Romans in their decadence' by Thomas Couture, 1846.





'Peter in the Catacombs' by Peter Styka, 1900



'Sermon of St Paul amidst the Ruins' by Giovanni Paolo Panini, 1744.

Key Theme

ROMANS

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written,

‘The just shall live by faith.’”

ROMANS 1:16-17

Epistle to the Romans

SIN

Righteousness
Demanded

- The Gentiles guilty—1:18–32
- The Jews guilty—2:1–3:8
- The whole world guilty—3:9–20

SALVATION

Righteousness
Declared

- Justification stated—3:21–31
- Justification illustrated in Abraham—4
- Justification explained in Adam—5

SANCTIFICATION

Righteousness
Defended

- Victory—the flesh—6
- Liberty—the Law—7
- Security—the Spirit—8

SOVEREIGNTY

Righteousness
Declined

- Israel's past riches—9
- Israel's present rejection—10
- Israel's future restoration—11

SERVICE

Righteousness
Demonstrated

- In the church body—12
- In society—13
- Toward the weaker believer—14:1–15:6

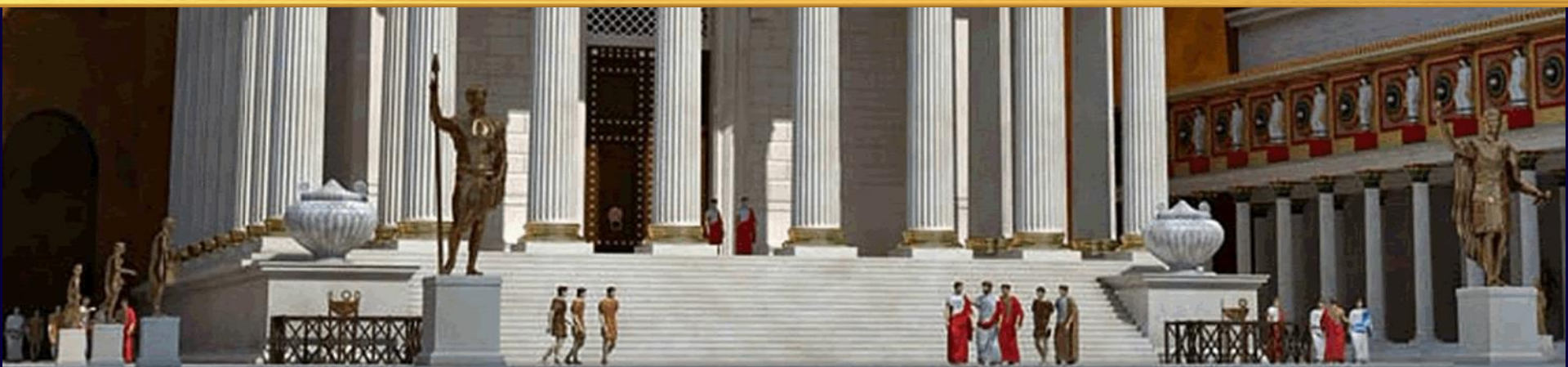
Romans

1
Part

INTRODUCTION


(Romans 1:1-17)

- Paul presents his credentials. (1:1–7)
- Paul expresses his concern. (1:8–15)
- Paul affirms his confidence. (1:16–17)



An aerial view of ancient Rome, showing the Colosseum in the background and various classical buildings and streets in the foreground. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light.

Chapter 1

A darkened aerial view of ancient Rome, showing the same scene as the top panel but with a dark overlay. The title 'ROMANS' is overlaid in large, golden, serif letters.

ROMANS



Paul states his credentials



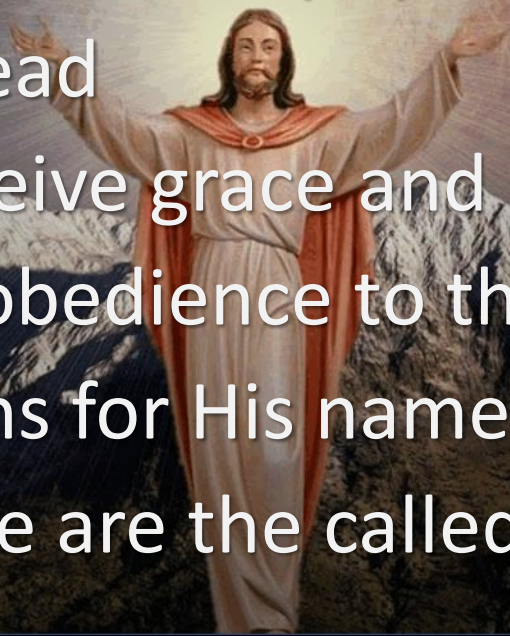
- Paul (his Roman name)
- a bondservant (slave)
- of Jesus Christ
- called (justified)
- to be an apostle
- separated (sanctified)
- to the gospel of God



'Saint Paul' by Jusepe de Ribera, 1637.

The Gospel of God

- Prophesied through His prophets in the Scriptures
- concern Jesus Christ
- born of the seed of David
- born according to the flesh
- declared the Son of God
- with power from the Holy Spirit
- rose from the dead
- by Christ we receive grace and
- apostleship for obedience to the faith
- among all nations for His name
- among whom we are the called of Jesus Christ



The Goal of the Gospel

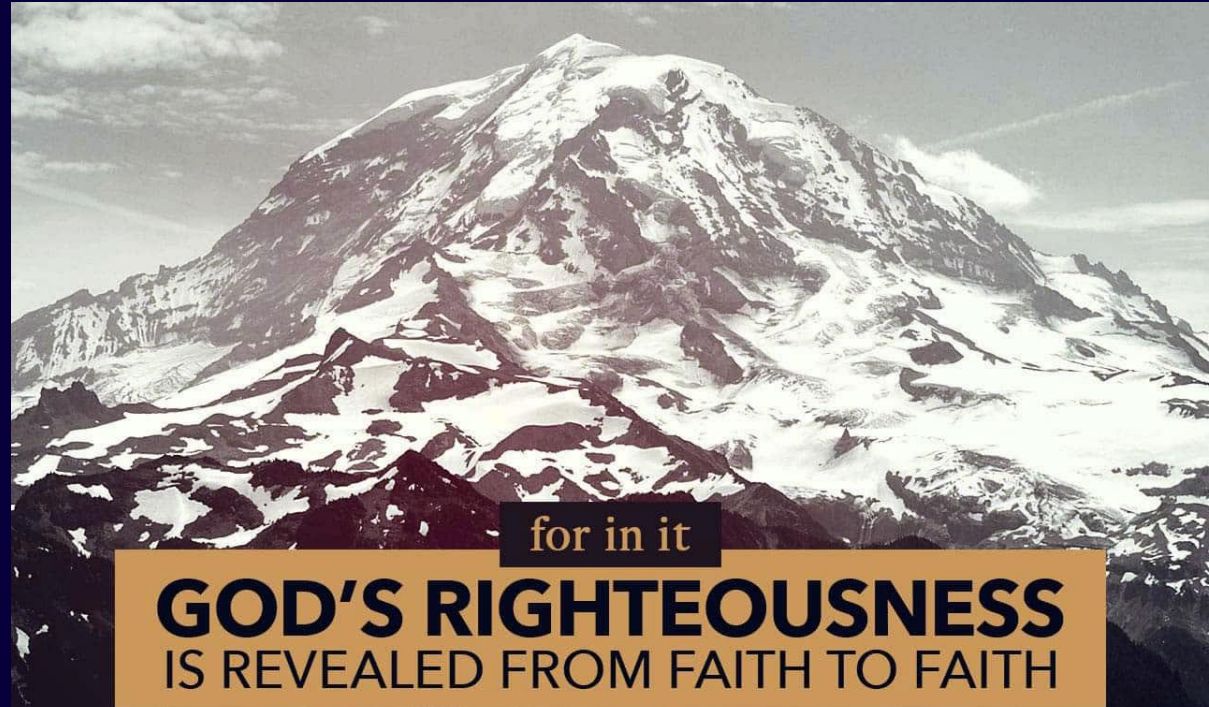
OBEDIENCE
FAITH



The Righteousness of God Revealed



- His righteous standards have been revealed
- and
- the means to righteousness have been revealed.



for in it

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS
IS REVEALED FROM FAITH TO FAITH

just as it is written:

THE JUST WILL LIVE BY
FAITH

ROMANS 1:17

To sum up

The **gospel of God**
can be defined as
the revelation of
the **righteousness of God**
to bring about
the **obedience of faith** in
the lives of people.

Paul the Theological Architect/Engineer



The Courthouse



The Power Plant



The Synagogue



The Church

Paul the Theological Architect/Engineer



The Courthouse

Romans 1-5 introduces the concept of righteousness by faith, but in order to show us our great need of salvation, Paul will spend the first five chapters showing how we are all guilty before God.

Romans

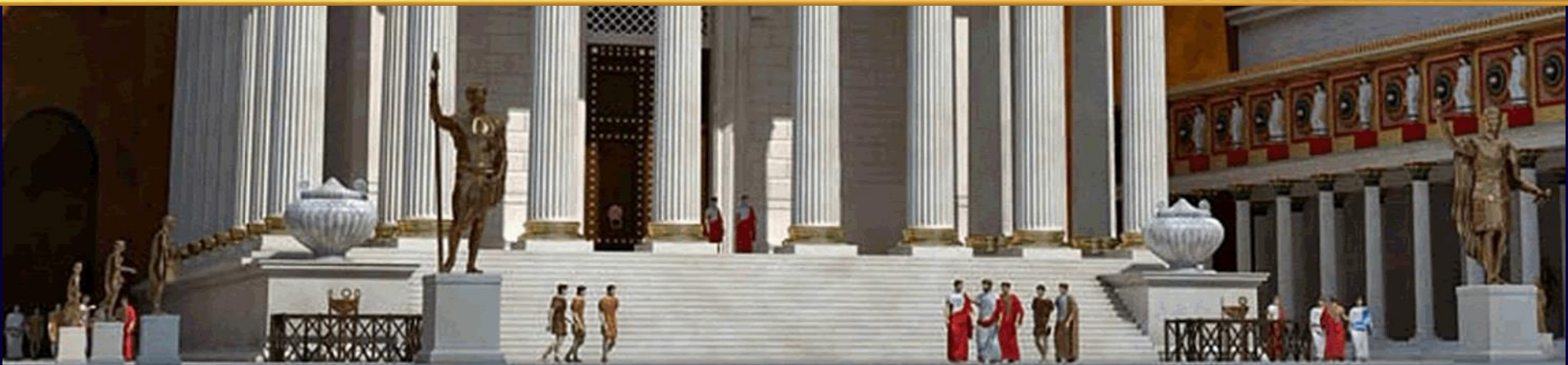
Part
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SIN

(Romans 1:18-3:20)



RIGHTEOUSNESS DEMANDED



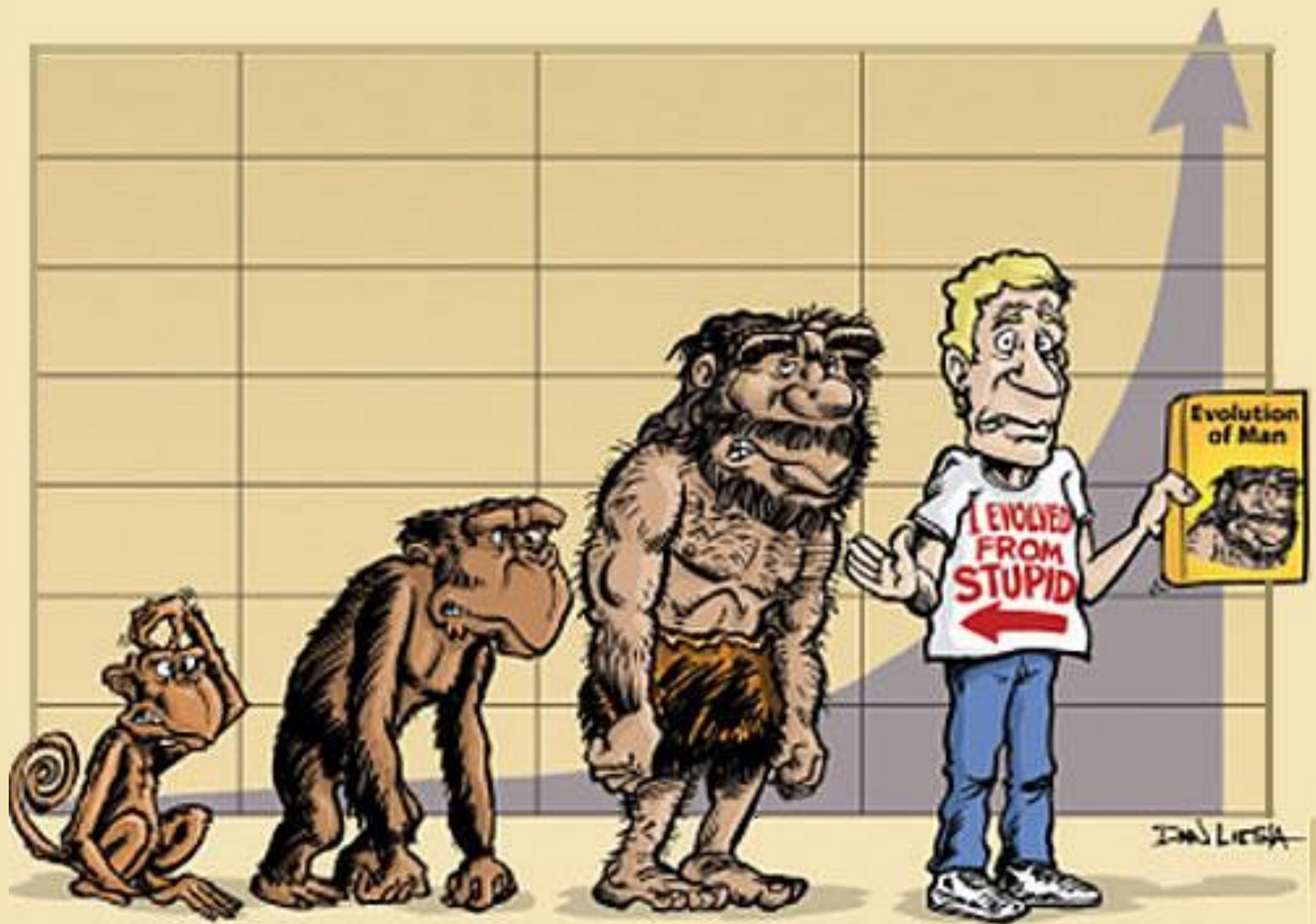
God's Wrath on Unrighteousness



¹⁸ For the wrath of God is [being] revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to [or in] them.

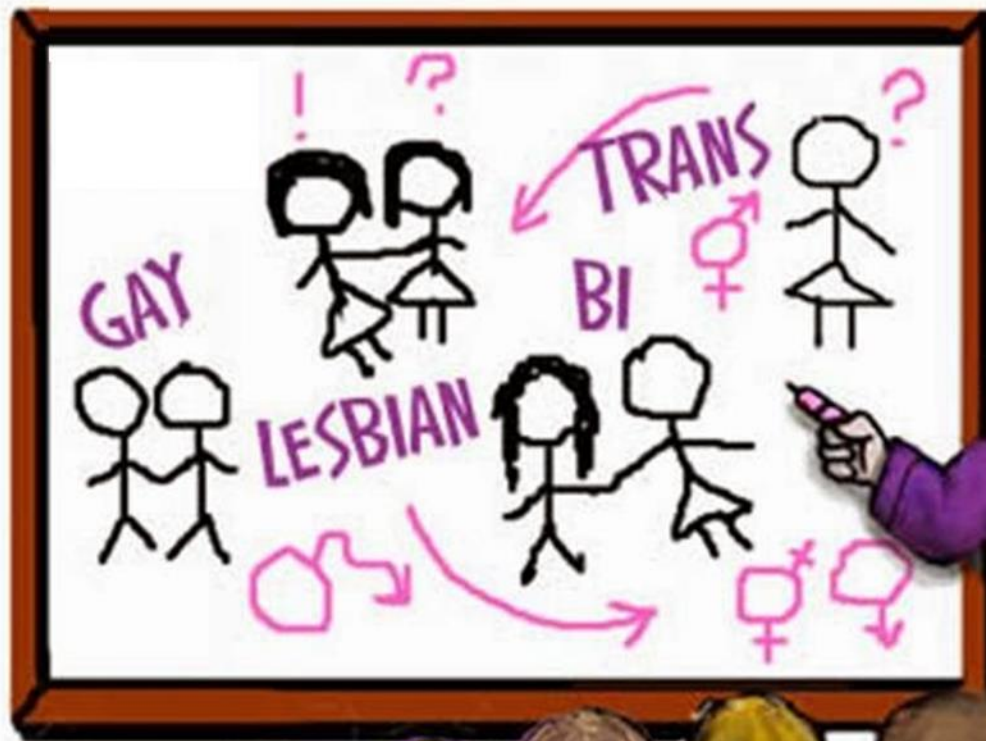
²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.





²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen [so let it be].



You SEE kids, you CAN BE,
AND do, ANY kind of SEX
you FEEL like!
AND NEVER, NEVER
say otherwise:
That's CALLED
HATE.



²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.



The LGBT Agenda



²⁸ 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;

²⁹ being filled with:

- all unrighteousness,
- sexual immorality,
- wickedness,
- covetousness,
- maliciousness;
- full of envy,
- murder,
- strife,
- deceit,
- evil-mindedness;

Deeds

they are:

- whisperers,
- ³⁰ backbiters,
- haters of God,
- violent
- proud,
- boasters,
- inventors of evil things,
- disobedient to parents,
- ³¹ undiscerning,
- untrustworthy,
- unloving,
- unforgiving,
- unmerciful;

Character



Sexual immorality

Maliciousness

EVIL DEEDS

Deceit
Evil-mindedness
Murder

Wickedness
Spite

Full of envy

Wickedness

Covetousness



Undiscerning
Unloving
BAD CHARACTER
Whisperers
Haters of God
Violent
Untrustworthy
Proud
Unforgiving
Boasters
Bakbiter
Whisperers of evil things



³² 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.





Chapter 2



ROMANS

God's Righteous Judgment

2 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. ² But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.

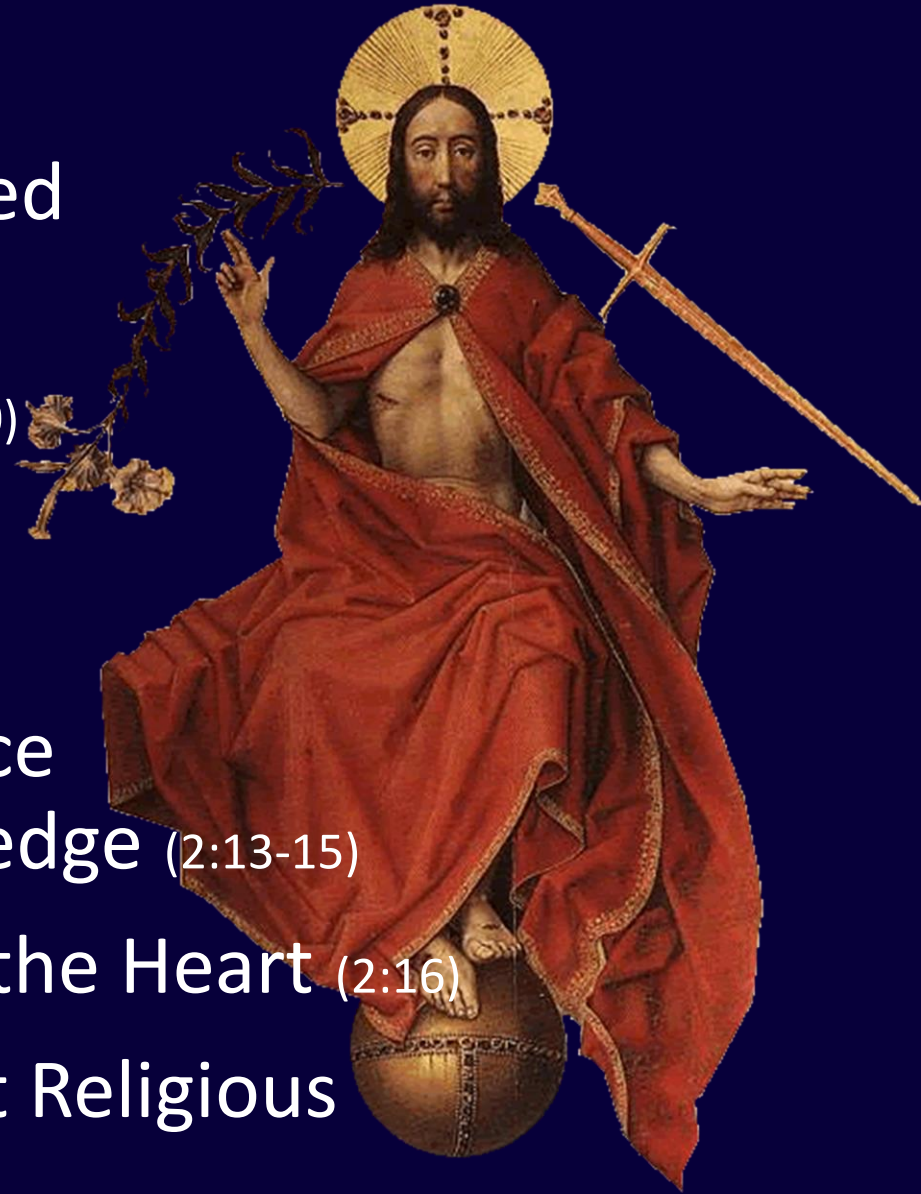


“Judge not, that you be not judged.”

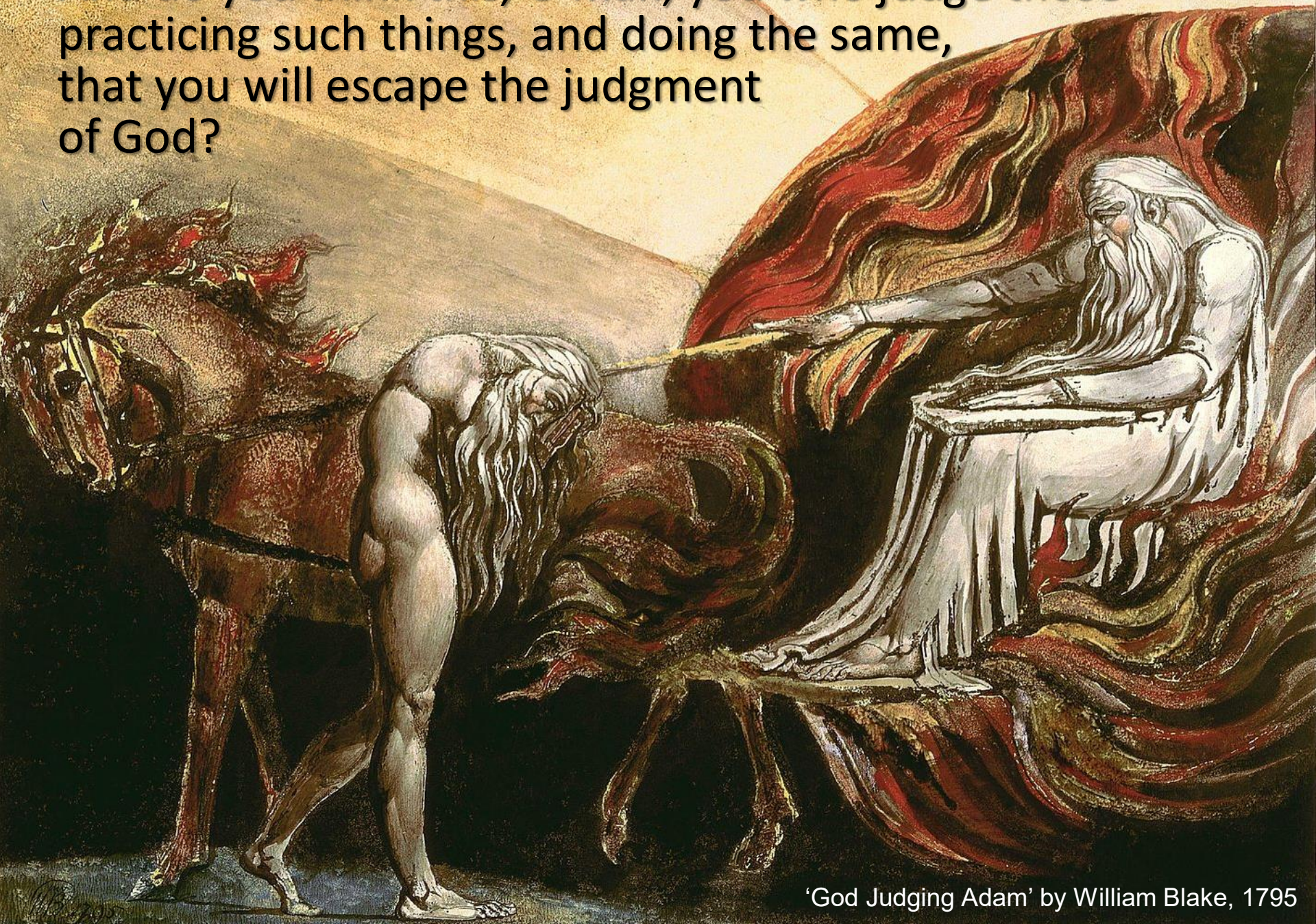
MATTHEW 7:1

Principles of God's Judgement (vv. 2:2-29)

1. According to Truth (2:2-4)
2. According to Accumulated Guilt (2:5)
3. According to Works (2:6-10)
4. Without Respect of Persons (2:11-12)
5. According to Performance [Obedience], not Knowledge (2:13-15)
6. Reaching the Secrets of the Heart (2:16)
7. According to Reality, Not Religious Profession (2:17-29)



³ And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?

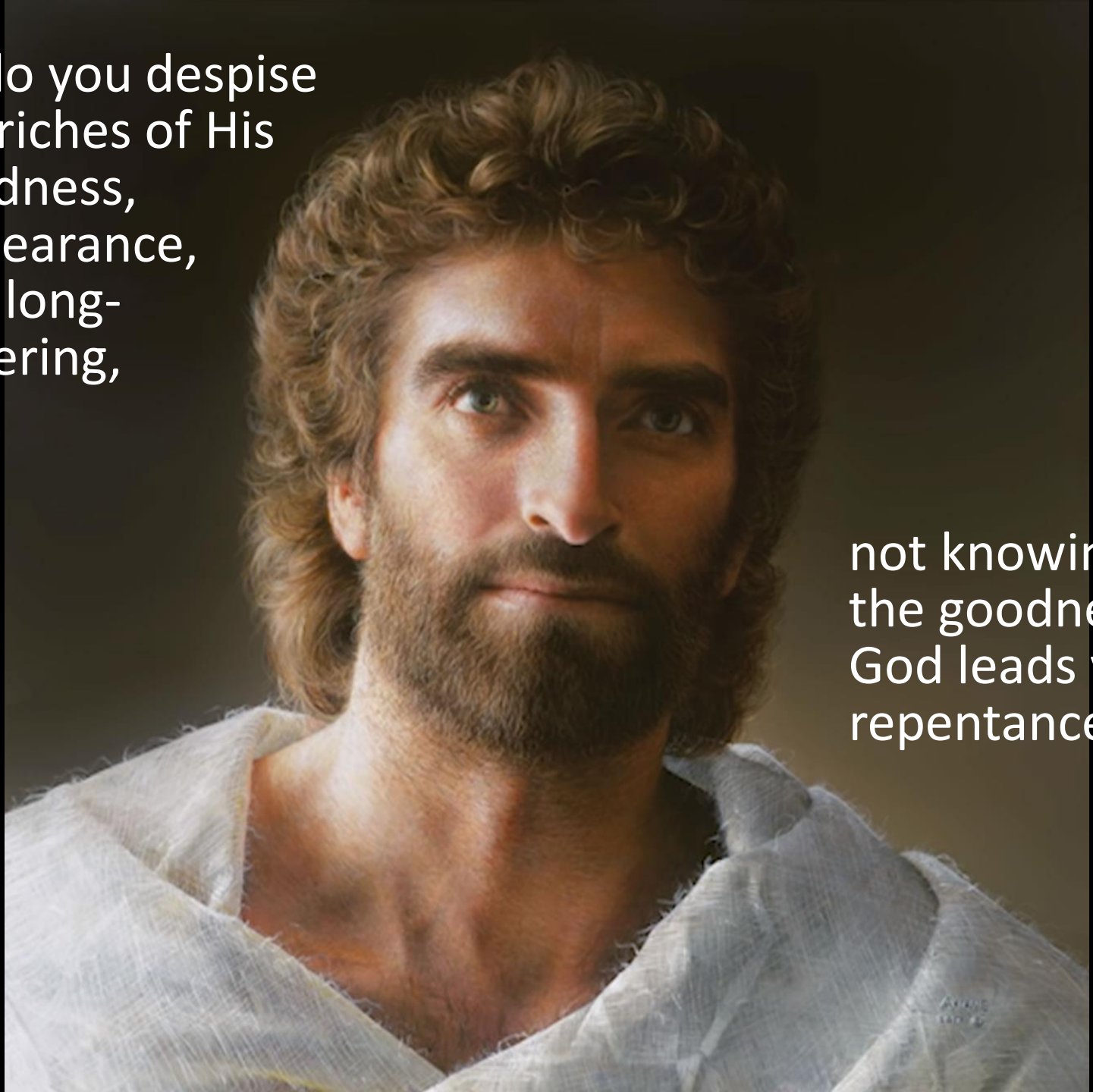


'God Judging Adam' by William Blake, 1795

4 Or do you despise
the riches of His
goodness,
forbearance,
and long-
suffering,

not knowing that
the goodness of
God leads you to
repentance?

'Jesus'
by Akiane
Kramarik,
2017.





5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

6 who “will render to each one according to his deeds [works]”;

God's Righteous Judgement

The image is a composite. On the left, a painting of Jesus with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a blue sash, stands in a field of golden wheat. In the center, a large, white, rectangular throne is shown. On the right, a fiery, orange and red scene depicts a large crowd of people falling or being cast into a fire.

Sheep & Goat Judgment

Ezekiel 20:32-38;
Matthew 25:31-46

Bema Seat Judgment

Matthew 25:31-46

Great White Throne

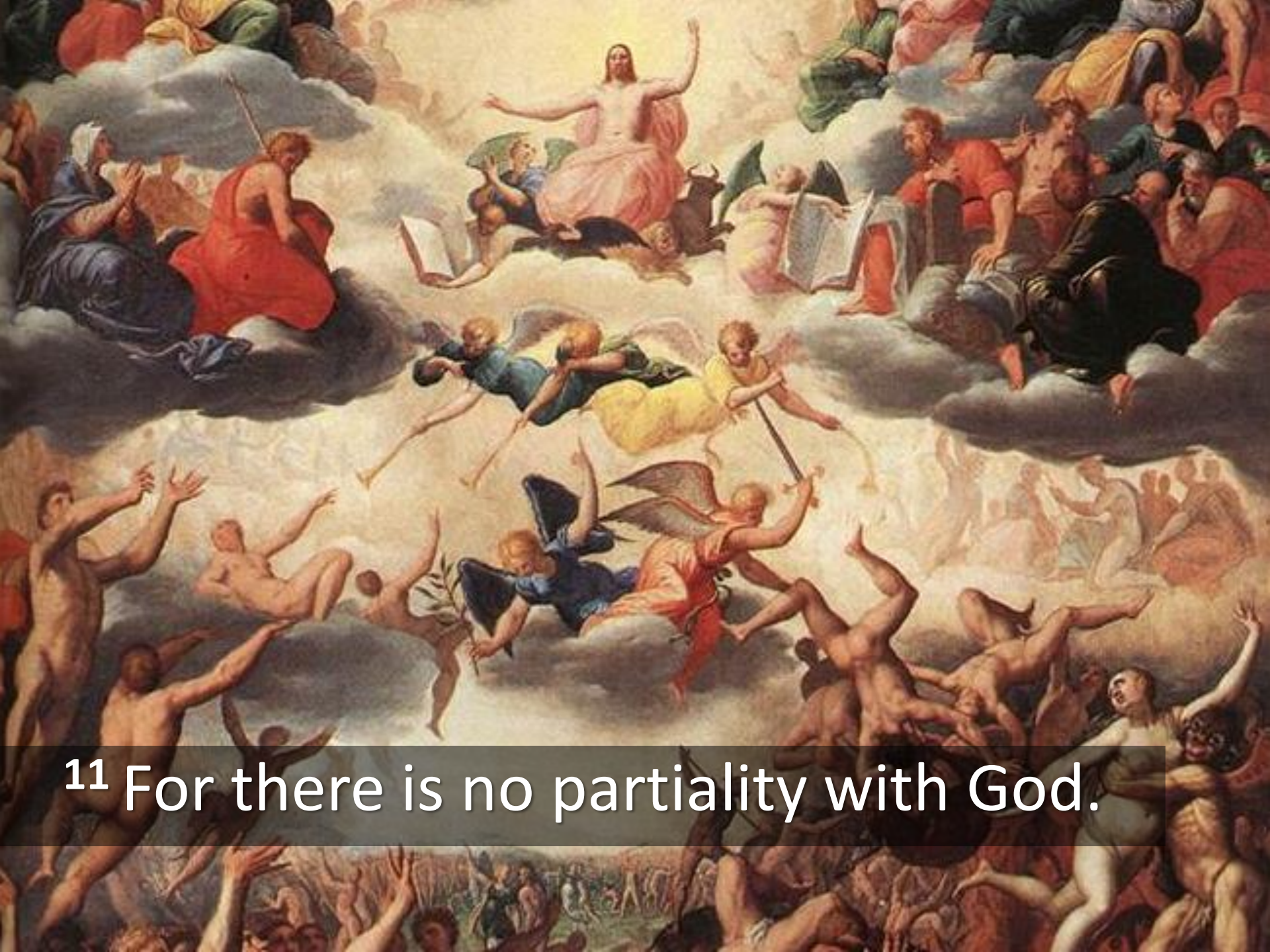
Revelation 20:11-15



7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;

⁸ but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—
indignation and wrath,
⁹ tribulation and anguish,
on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;
¹⁰ but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.





11 For there is no partiality with God.

¹² For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

¹³ for not the hearers of the law *are* just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;

¹⁴ (for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*)

¹⁶ in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

SAVED

The Jews Guilty as the Gentiles

¹⁷ Indeed you are called a Jew,
and rest on the law, and
make your boast in God,
¹⁸ and know *His* will, and
approve the things that are
excellent, being instructed
out of the law,

1. Being called a Jew;
2. Reliance on the Law;
3. Boasting of God;
4. Knowing God's will;
5. Instructed (in the minutia)
of the Law.

'Jerusalem' by William Blake, c. 1804.

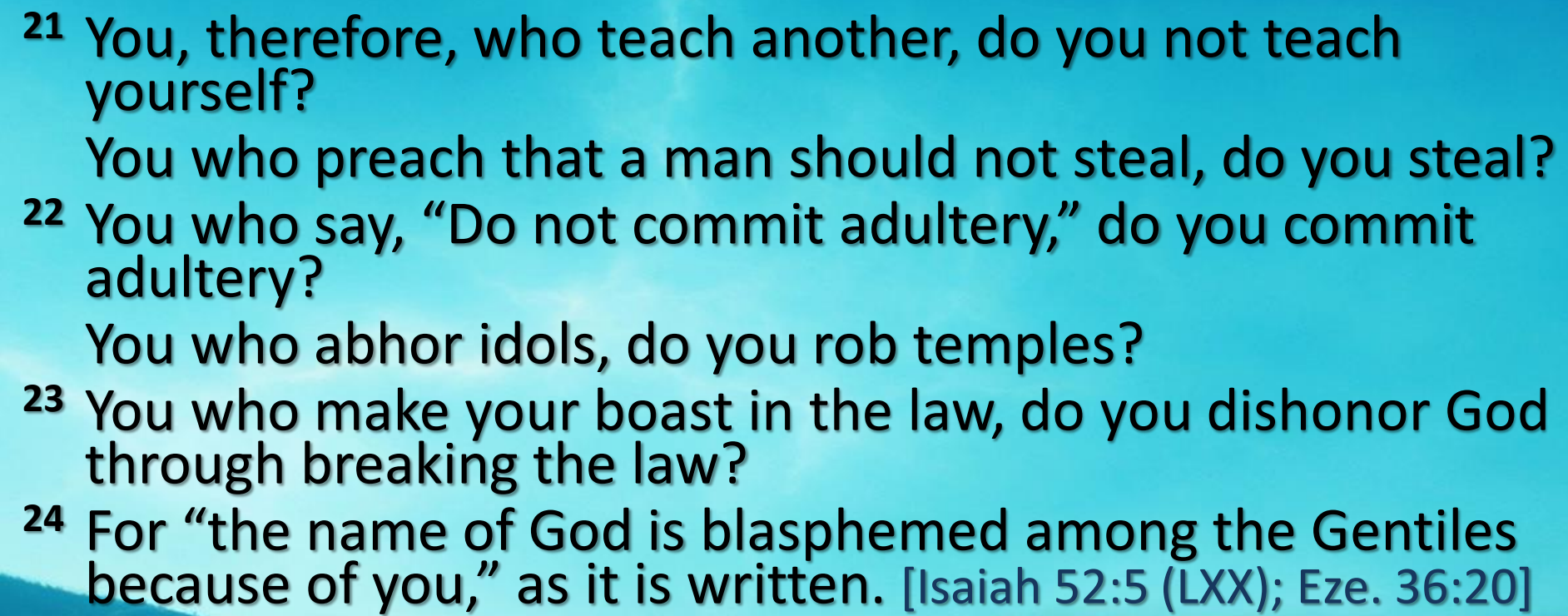


The Jews Guilty as the Gentiles

¹⁷ Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, ¹⁸ and know *His* will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, ¹⁹ and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰ an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law.

'Jerusalem' by William Blake, c. 1804.



- 
- 21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?
You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?
- 22 You who say, “Do not commit adultery,” do you commit adultery?
You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?
- 23 You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?
- 24 For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” as it is written. [Isaiah 52:5 (LXX); Eze. 36:20]

Circumcision of No Avail

²⁵ For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

²⁶ Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?



²⁷ And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with *your* written *code* and circumcision, *are* a transgressor of the law?



'Christ in front of his judges' by Maurycy Gottlieb, 1877.

²⁸ For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, nor is circumcision that which *is* outward in the flesh; ²⁹ but *he is* a Jew who *is one* inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise *is* not from men but from God.



‘Sir, we would see Jesus’ by James Tissot, .



Chapter 3



ROMANS



God's Judgment Defended

3 What advantage then has the Jew, or what *is* the profit of circumcision? **2** Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God. **3** For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? **4** Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written:

“That You may be justified in Your words,
And may overcome when You are judged.” [Psalm 51:4]





Man is unjust, but God is just; And finally justice will triumph.

⁵ But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? *Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.)* ⁶ Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world?

⁷ For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a Sinner? ⁸ And *why* not say, “Let us do evil that good may come”?—as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.

All Have Sinned

9 What then?

Are we better *than they*?

Not at all.

For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.



FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT

OF THE

Glory of God



ROMANS 3:23

¹⁰ As it is written: [Psalm 14:1-3, Psalm 53:1-3]

“There is none righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ There is none who understands;

There is none who seeks after God.

¹² They have all turned aside;

They have together become unprofitable;

There is none who does good, no, not one.”



- 13 “Their throat *is* an open tomb;
 With their tongues they have practiced deceit”;
 “The poison of asps *is* under their lips”;
- 14 “Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness.”

Double Chiasm Literary Structure of Romans 3:13-14

- A 13 “Their throat *is*
 B an open tomb;
 B’ With their tongues
 A they have practiced deceit”;
 C “The poison of asps *is*
 D under their lips”;
 D’ 14 “Whose mouth *is*
 C’ full of cursing and bitterness.”

Whatever we do we cannot escape the “worthlessness” of the righteousness that we bring from our fallen nature.

15 “Their feet *are* swift to shed blood;
16 Destruction and misery *are* in their ways;
17 And the way of peace they have not known.”

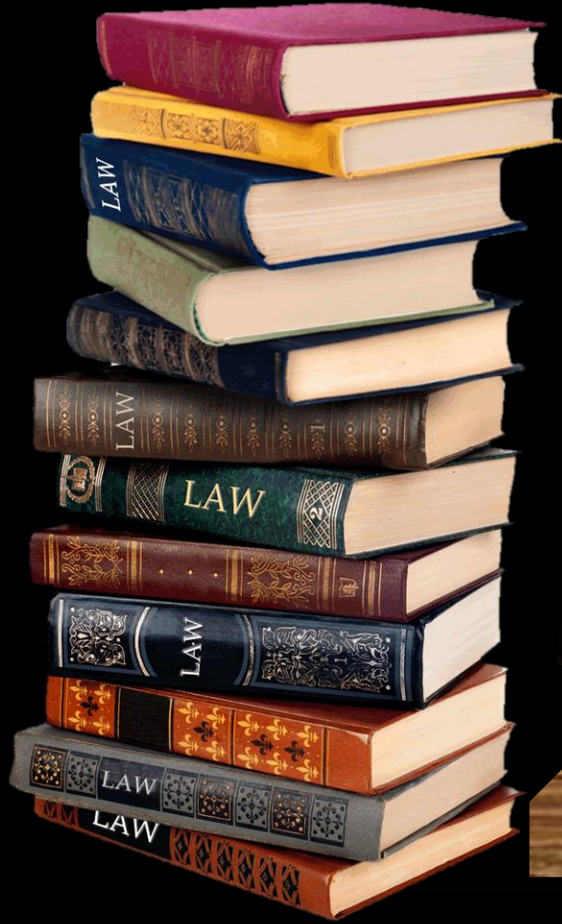
18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”



THE **FEAR** OF
GOD

Is the beginning of wisdom.

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.



IF YOU
RELY ON
THE
LAW,
YOU WILL
BE FOUND
GUILTY!

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

The Message So Far

1. People are accountable to God.

Humanity is not autonomous. It is God who created the world and everything in it. As creator, God has the right to demand that we worship Him.

2. The main human problem is rebellion against God.

We did not honor God and give thanks to Him. Our foolish hearts were darkened and we “exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things”. “Therefore we have no excuse!” This paves the way for the good news. But good news isn’t good news unless we know we need to be saved.

3. God’s solution to humanity’s sin is Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Having laid out the bad news, Paul turns now to the good news, the *gospel* of Jesus Christ. “But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law.” Through Christ’s sacrificial death and resurrection sinners may be saved from the condemnation our sins deserve. Despite our rebellion against God, we can be “justified by the gift of His grace.”

4. Salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

How is that good news for me? Paul will tell us in Chapters 3 and 4. The salvation God has provided comes “through faith in Jesus Christ,” and it is “for all who believe.” Faith is counted as righteousness.

Romans

Part
3

SALVATION

(Romans 3:21-5:21)



RIGHTEOUSNESS DECLARED