



Chapter One

INTRODUCTION

NOTE: The Letter To The Romans was written in Corinth by the Apostle Paul in 58 AD. Paul had not yet visited in Rome, although the ecclesia there was widely known. In the letter Paul announces his intention to come to them soon.

From Corinth, Paul went to Jerusalem to deliver a collection of funds for the poor, and to hopefully cross paths with Israelite brethren attending the feast there.

While in Jerusalem, Paul was arrested and taken to Rome as a prisoner. Thus, he did get to Rome, but not in the manner he might have wished.

IN THIS STUDY we will be examining Paul's letter to the ecclesia in Rome written approximately 58 AD – nearly three decades into the Reign Christ.

We will be looking at this letter, verse by verse, reading its context and discovering its message. We will avoid the slipshod approach to Scripture typically used by preachers who read in a disjointed manner without regard to context and background ... a verse here and a verse there ... expounding upon mythical doctrines of their own liking. Church organizations and theologians have, in the past, used the piecemeal method to bend Scripture to say whatever they preferred it to say. Then to finish the tragedy, churchgoers gullibly accept the nonsense. That method has created confusion on a massive scale.

We must use better methods. A systematic, verse-by-verse exegesis, taking into consideration historical context, the personal circumstances of the writer as well as the hearers, along with the Greek text and its idioms will be necessary for an accurate perspective. It is important that we perceive these writings as through the eyes of those who were living the events and dealing with the issues being addressed. We must avoid the confusing, hit-and-miss, self-contradictory methods used in pulpits of shallow-minded, self-serving preachers.

When reading Holy Scripture, we want to understand it as if we were there when the words were spoken and/or written. Honest pursuit of truth carries its own blessings with it. Freedom is one of those blessings (Jn. 8:32).

In order to understand Paul's writings we need to be acquainted with him. Familiarity with Paul's background and his style of writing helps a great deal. That familiarity comes from time devoted to reading his letters, and considering his personal involvement, his motives, his background, and the problems that were facing him. Error and paganism have taken deep root in religion in our day. Truth has been replaced by myth and nonsense. Consequently, most people are victims of myth, nonsense, and deceptive doctrines. We must protect ourselves against this by proving all things ... especially religious traditions of the churches.

Jesus told his disciples that the great deception would come from religious people claiming to be in Jesus' name, and saying that Jesus is the Christ (Mtt. 24:5). Consider this warning! Read it carefully, for it identifies a specific group of deceivers and devils. It refers to churches. They are preachers, theologians, and church-hired translators of the Bible ... all claiming to be "Christians." Christ's warning can apply to no other group, for these are the only deceivers who come in Jesus' name, claiming that Jesus is the Christ.

The letter to the Romans appears first among Paul's letters as they appear in the English versions of the New Testament. However, chronologically this letter was not

the first of Paul's writings. Paul wrote this letter to the Romans in approximately 58 A.D. which would have been nearly thirty years after Jesus was raised immortal. Jesus had been reigning on his throne for nearly 30 years. Before writing this letter to the ecclesia in Rome, Paul had already written a letter to the ecclesia in Galatia (possibly ten years earlier). He had also written two letters to the ecclesia in Corinth, as well as two letters to the ecclesia in Thessalonica.

Paul wrote this letter to Rome while he was in Corinth on his third excursion into Asia Minor and Europe. His excursions are today commonly called "missionary journeys." In these excursions to the West (west from Palestine) Paul took the Kingdom gospel to the Israel people in Asia Minor and Europe.

We noted, in the Acts lessons, that after Paul's third missionary trip (after he wrote this letter to the Romans), he returned to Jerusalem to intercept more of his kinsmen who might be in the area during the upcoming scheduled holiday. While there, the Judeans caused him to be arrested, and he was eventually taken to Rome as a prisoner. Paul had wanted to go to Rome ... but not under those circumstances. Nonetheless, God had his own agenda for Paul.

Paul's letter was delivered to the ecclesia in Rome probably by one of Paul's friends: a lady named Phoebe. Phoebe is mentioned by name in Romans 16:

1. *I am commending to you Phoebe our sister, who is also a servant to the ecclesia which is at Cenchrea:*
2. *That you might welcome her in the Lord, as becomes*

saints, and that you stand by her in whatever matter she may need of you: for she also has been a caretaker of many, and of myself also.

Romans 16:1-2

The majority of the New Testament letters, with the exception of the Gospels, were Paul's. This one to the Romans is unique among his letters in that it was his most comprehensive writing. That is, it addressed a broad array of issues, and touched upon many doctrinal questions. It has been said that if we had access to only one of Paul's letters, this letter to Rome might be the best choice because its teachings are more complete and formal.

Paul's letter to the Roman ecclesia teaches doctrine and principle. He doesn't merely state doctrine; he explains it and justifies it. In the Book of Acts we relived events as they happened day to day. But this letter to the Romans is different. It deals with doctrine and principle, like the elements of law, faith, and works. In Romans, Paul puts those three elements in perspective. Using his own particular method of exegesis he answers questions about Israel's existence in the world, her purpose, and reasons for problems she was experiencing.

This letter to the Romans was written well into the reign of Christ an era when amazing events and changes were occurring. Paul found himself an era of transitional events that were being precipitated by Christ. Jesus had conscripted Paul into his service, where Paul became one of Christ's main instruments to save dispersed Israelites, and to document these things for the benefit of future generations.

ROMANS 1:1-7 PAUL GIVES HIS CREDENTIALS

Paul: servant of Jesus Christ, called apostle, separated to the gospel of God

Which he had promised aforetime through his prophets in holy scriptures,

Concerning his Son, who was generated from flesh out of the seed of David;

And confirmed in power from spirit of holiness to be the Son of God through the raising up of the dead:

Through whom we received grace and apostleship into obedience of faith in all the nations for his name:

Among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ:

To all God's beloved in Rome, the called saints: Grace to you and peace from God the Father of us and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

AS

WE READ Romans we want to double-check the translation in our English Bible by comparing it to a literal translation of the Greek text, or better yet to the actual Greek text itself. Keep in mind that the English Bibles you read are not the Scriptures, but merely “versions” of the Scriptures. They are by no means exact translations. They are versions according to the disclaimer on the title page of every English Bible. Therefore, it behooves us to research back into the original language as far as we can. The closer we get to the original autographs, the less we must trust unknown translators and church organizations whose motives may be doubtful.

Notice, in verse 1, Paul is a “called apostle.” This does not infer that people called him an apostle, but that Paul had been “called” (commissioned) as an apostle. A “called apostle” is one who has been called and commissioned by Christ.

Paul was called (commissioned) by Jesus to teach the gospel. The good news of the Kingdom told of the fulfillment of prophecy and the hope of Israel. Paul was separated or set aside to carry that message.

The good news told Israel that her Messiah, Jesus, had ascended his throne, and that his Kingdom was being established among them. It told about the reign of Yahweh’s Son. But Jewish/Babylonian teachings had taken their toll, clouding the truth of the Kingdom in and around Jerusalem. That confusion continues today ... because Jewish/Babylonian influence continues. For this reason, the world system is called “Babylon.”

For example, many people of Paul’s day denied that Jesus was the real Son of God! He did not fit the Jewish/Babylonian model according to their theologies, so they rejected Him. Jewish/Babylonian culture was the norm in Jerusalem; therefore the real Jesus was rejected in Jerusalem.

People still reject Jesus unwittingly! Churchgoers today, for example, verbalize the name “Jesus” as well as the phrase “Son of God” as if they believe He exists. But in their

actual beliefs they deny Him. I will explain.

Notice, in verse 3, it says that Jesus was born in flesh, and was generated out of the flesh seed of David. If you look up “generated” in Greek, you’ll discover that it comes from the Greek “*genomy*.” It means, very simply, to BE GENERATED; to come into existence; to be created; to be conceived, or to be produced. This formal teaching from Paul went to the ecclesia in Rome! He specifically said that Jesus was “generated” (i.e., came into existence). That means Jesus had a beginning! Before his beginning He did not exist. In order to come into existence one cannot already exist. You cannot come into existence if you already exist. But Jesus’ beginning was as an embryo in Mary’s womb. The flesh through which He came into existence was the seed of David’s flesh. In other words, Jesus came into existence through flesh. and in flesh ... as do all mortals.

In Matthew 1:1, and Luke 3:23-38, Scripture shows us the “genesis (i.e., beginning) of Jesus.” These names listed were the flesh-and-blood ancestors through whom Jesus received half his genetic makeup through Mary.

Jesus was mortal in every way, but He was certainly not ordinary ... at least not in terms of the life that God ordained for Him. For one thing, Jesus was conceived miraculously in his mother’s womb. Jesus had no earthly biological father. Instead, Yahweh created the embryo in Mary’s womb by supplying half of the genetics through a creation process. The created genetics combined with Mary’s genetics ... forming a complete embryo. Yahweh, therefore, was Jesus’ Father (Mtt. 3:17; 17:5) by virtue of supplying half of his genetics for his biological life, and giving Him spiritual life as well.

Jesus was Yahweh’s Son in more than genetics. He was begotten also in holy spirit Jn. 3:34). These things, plus the fact that Jesus was later raised immortal, and given kingship at Yahweh’s right hand, made Jesus unique in all of Yahweh’s creation.

2. Hereby you know the spirit of God: every spirit which acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in flesh is of God

3. And every spirit which does not acknowledge Jesus (in flesh) is not of God: and this is the spirit of antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and now is already in the world.

1 John 4:3

7. For many deceivers went out into the world, the ones not acknowledging Jesus Christ as coming in flesh; this is the deceiver and the antichrist.

2 John 7

By definition, the Word of God tells us that most churchgoers are infected with the spirit of antichrist. Here is why: Most churchgoers believe in a triune god they call “the Trinity”, or in a dual god whom they think had two faces. In either case, the “Jesus” they profess is not the true Jesus in his own right, but merely one face of a mythological god that has multiple faces. The “Jesus” they profess is everliving ... and therefore incapable of having had a beginning, or of having come into existence.

Thus, the “Jesus” they profess is NOT the “Jesus” described by God’s Word. The “Jesus” they profess could not have been a distinct being, but merely a temporary disguise of some immortal god. Such a “Jesus” could not have begun “in flesh”; he could only have temporarily incarnated (possessed) flesh in disguise. He would have been incapable of “coming into existence,” and equally incapable of ceasing to exist (i.e., dying). Such a Jesus could NOT have been conceived to Mary, could not have been born, and could not have died. In other words, such a “Jesus” could not have been the Jesus defined in God’s Word.

Yahweh, on the other hand, had no beginning. None is indicated in his word. Rather He, as the Creator, gave beginning to all creation. He was not conceived or born. He CANNOT die. Jesus, on the other hand, was GENERATED. He was created (Rom. 1:3). Jesus was conceived, generated, and born – also called “begotten” in the

KJV – (Jn. 1:18; Jn. 3:16, 18; 1 Jn. 4:9; Lk. 1:35; Mtt. 1:20)

Jesus had a beginning (i.e., He came into existence). He also died ... which qualified Him as the Lamb Of God whose death convicted us of our sins and saved us. These indisputable facts make it impossible for Jesus to be Yahweh, or for Jesus to be one-third of a so-called triune god.

Thus, in church circles theologians commonly discuss the question of whether or not Jesus was created (i.e., did He have a beginning?). Most churchgoers believe that Jesus was NOT created; did not have a beginning. They contend that Jesus, Yahweh, and The Holy Ghost are three faces of one triune being. According to them, when Jesus came into the world he was Yahweh in an envelope of flesh, and with an alternate name ... calling himself Jesus.

Anyone believing in that kind of “Jesus” does not believe in the true Son of Yahweh who was conceived and born mortal, came **IN MORTAL FLESH**, lived and died, and afterward was raised immortal. Rather, they believe in a mythical godhead that plays roles and possesses different bodies, **WASN'T** born mortal, **DID NOT** die, and temporarily disguised Himself by pretending to be a man!

The Bible does not teach this! It tells us that Jesus is **THE SON OF YAHWEH**, not Yahweh himself. Romans 1:4 says Jesus was declared with power to be the Son of God. According to the record, God declared Him to be his Son by raising Him from the dead. He also declared Jesus to be his Son by a voice from heaven on at least two occasions: at his baptism (Mtt. 3:17), and at his transfiguration on the Mount of Olives (Mtt. 17:5). On these occasions a voice from heaven declared “this is my Son.” Those were declarations “with power.” Furthermore, we read that Jesus was declared the Son through “the raising” of spiritually-dead Israel – a mighty demonstration of power. Furthermore, one might ask, where or what was the **SOURCE** of the power that put life back into the corpse of Jesus after He was buried? If Jesus was dead, from where did that power come? Who kept the universe running while Jesus was dead? Who put life back into Jesus when He lay lifeless in the tomb?

The Trinitarians and Dualists cannot answer these questions ... except to admit that they don't believe that Jesus ever really died. Their theologies of triune or dual gods deny the fact that Jesus could really die. They must admit that they believe that Jesus merely changed position, moved out of the mortal body, and continued to live in an alternate form. This leaves them with a Savior that did not really die, a Bible that is wrong, and a Jesus that was not truly the Lamb of God. If Jesus didn't truly die, then there was no sacrifice. If Jesus did not truly die, He could not have been “raised” from the tomb – for how can one be raised if he is not dead? It would have all been a trick; a cruel deception based on a crafty turn of words and phrases, as if invented by a battery of lawyers and politicians to cause the public to think one thing when something altogether different was actually being done. If all Jesus did was to merely change identity, put on a different coat and hat, there would not have been a “death,” or a “sacrifice,” or a “raising,” or a salvation.

God's Word states that Jesus died on the cross, was buried, was raised immortal, and ascended his throne as our King and Savior. According to Paul, these powerful events gave us “grace and apostleship into obedience of faith” – which was Paul's way of saying that these demonstrated Jesus' love, gave us faith in Him and in his Father, and empowered us to know Him and follow Him.

In verse 5, the idiom “for his name” means “demonstrating his authority” or “on behalf of his authority.” So, his authority was acknowledged by those who chose to be obedient to the faith.

In verse 6 we again see the phrase: “the called.” Earlier, Paul claimed to be one of “the called,” and now he says that the recipients of this letter were also “the called of Jesus Christ.” The word “saints” is a translation of a Greek word which means “holy ones.” “Holy” means to be set aside or selected out. Thus, the saints in Rome were “called” and set aside for God's own purpose.

Then Paul ends his greeting by bidding them peace and grace.

QUESTION: If you believe that Jesus is a distinct being, and you worship Jesus as well as Yahweh, then how do you explain the verses in the Old Testament which tell us not to have more than one God?

PONDER THIS: Imagine if everybody thought you were actually your father in disguise. No matter how much you established your true identity, no one would ever believe you were anybody but your father. They, in effect, would be denying that you exist. Would it be possible for them to understand about you if they couldn't even identify you?

It is impossible to understand Jesus while believing that He is really someone else.

ROMANS 1:8.13 STRENGTH FROM FAITH

First, I thank my God, through Jesus Christ, for you all, because your faith is being declared throughout the whole world.

For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of his Son, I unceasingly remember you always in my prayers;

Making request, if by some means, at sometime, I might be blessed in the will of God to come to you.

For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, to establish you solidly;

And this is to be brought together in you by your faith in one another, both yours and mine.

But I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that many times I purposed to come to you, but have been hindered thus far, that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other nations.

IN VERSE 8 Paul thanks the Father through Jesus. This brings up a question: How do we give thanks “through” Jesus? If the prayer goes to God anyway, can’t we just pray to Him directly? Isn’t it inefficient and redundant to insert Jesus in between when the prayer is going to the Father anyway?

The answer involves divine protocol and respect. Prayers “through” Jesus are directed TO Jesus with the understanding that He has authority from the Father to respond to the prayers. The Father empowers Jesus, but Jesus responds and speaks for the Father. Jesus is our access to Yahweh. We cannot make an end run around Jesus to get to the Father. To attempt to do so is an insult to both Father and Son. Jesus is the door we must pass through to get to the Father.

Yahweh has designated his Son to be his Right Hand (his King) over the affairs of man. All correspondence stops at the desk of Jesus. When Jesus became King, man was given instruction that Jesus is authorized to receive prayers and thanks on behalf of the

Father. Man is not allowed to go over the head of Jesus.

That means that we cannot speak directly to the Father and then merely give Jesus lip service at the end of the prayer. In other words, adding “... in Jesus’ name” at the end of the prayer is not what God had in mind.

Mankind has been guilty, for centuries, of dismissing Jesus from the chain of authority ... as if He is a bystander. So-called Christians have been down-playing Him and ignoring Him for too long. If they believed Him to be truly their King, they would not do this. We must acknowledge Him and stop belittling Him with church teachings which attempt to keep Him as a babe in a manger, or as an absentee landlord, or a defeated politician. Jesus is our reigning King. He will NOT be ignored or down-played.

Praying “through Jesus” means to pray TO Jesus, knowing that He hears and responds on behalf, and in the authority of, his Father. Jesus has the backing of his Father. He has power of attorney from his Father to conduct business in the Father’s name.

Jesus is King in the kingdom Yahweh created. When we thank Jesus, we are also thanking his Father who put Him there as King. When you thank Jesus, you are expressing gratitude for the Kingdom and for its Creator and for its King. As the Father’s representative, Jesus hears and acts on behalf of the Father. An answer from Jesus has full authority from the Father. Any prayer to Jesus is also a prayer to the Father.

However, any attempt to knowingly bypass Jesus and to go over his head is insubordination and an insult to both Jesus and his Father.

Imagine what would happen if a new recruit in the Army attempted to ignore his Commanding Officer and go around him to demand an audience with the President. It would be a breach of the chain of command, and grounds for severe discipline.

We are told that we cannot go to the Father except by Jesus. When we speak to Jesus we can be sure that our prayer is heard by the One authorized to hear and act upon it with au-

thority from the Father. That way our prayer receives the attention it needs. There is no other way to get to the Father. As Christians we must acknowledge Jesus as our King. If we don’t, we deny his Kingship!

The ecclesia in Rome had a growing reputation by the time Paul wrote this letter. Verse 8 says that news of the ecclesia in Rome had circulated through “the whole world.” Of course, that meant the known world - i.e., the “Roman Empire,” or perhaps you could call it the “Greek world.”

Verse 10 tells us that Paul had been planning to go to Rome, and that he was concerned about the spiritual stability of the saints there. He wanted to give them something that would “establish” them firm in the faith. The word “established” comes from a Greek word that means “to be fixed” or “to be placed in a stable position.” Jesus’ followers in Rome needed to be strengthened, just as people today.

QUESTION: Does God answer the prayers of people who pray to the Trinity? What about those who pray to “Mother Mary,” or “Saint So and So?” Does prayer have a better chance of being answered if you do things just right, such as “crossing yourself” like Catholics do, or using certain religious sounding phrases the way Pastors do?

ROMANS 1:14 -15 WERE THE “BARBARIANS” BARBARIC?

I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; to the learned, as well as to the unlearned.

So much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

HERE we must turn things up-side down for a moment to find truth. The churches and the “official” historians have taught us wrong. In modern vernacular, “barbarian” means “uncivilized” or “savage.” Ancient Romans called the Germanic and Scandinavian tribes “Barbarians.” Since most history from that era came from the Roman perspective, most people since that time have inherited the Roman perspective of those “Barbarians.” They are assumed to have been uncouth savages. In contrast, Romans are assumed to have been civilized, intelligent people of an ordered society. The truth, however, proves otherwise!

At the time of Paul’s letter, “Barbarians” (Gk. *barbarois*) were “people of a foreign tongue.” The belief that they were “uncouth savages in animal skins,” has been assumed by modern historians. Granted, Roman arrogance may have portrayed them as savages, but the term itself merely meant “foreigner.” However, the victors (Romans) wrote the histories and defined the terms. Centuries of religious and political confusion has left modern man thinking that “Barbarian” means “uncouth savage.”

However, the Germanic tribes (the “Barbarians”) conquered Rome. They were in many ways more advanced than the so-called “civilized” Romans and Greeks. Like the so-called “civilized” culture of our modern day, the Romans had lost their moral values, common sense, objectivity, and con-

nection to reality. Roman debauchery was comparable to the debauchery of modern America. Rome’s lack of concern for human life was similar to America’s today. Rome’s coliseum foreshadowed American stadiums where professional gladiators are paid to perform for the audiences. They were, and still are, called “games” – designed for the purpose of pacifying “citizens,” diverting attention and energies away from reality. They keep “citizens” sedated and in bondage.

Today’s system also condones, and finances, the wholesale murder of babies through “abortion.” The Roman system, likewise, was lost in hypocrisy and deceit. Nonetheless, Romans arrogantly judged themselves “civilized,” and looked down upon other cultures, as do Americans today. Other cultures were judged to be backward and in need of Roman leadership. Likewise, Americans today arrogantly reckon themselves enlightened as they look down their noses at cultures that don’t share “western values.” Americans, while they “harvest” parts of sacrificed babies for cosmetics and medical supplies, take time to feel sorry for the unenlightened, underdeveloped (barbarian) cultures of the world. What hypocrisy and blindness!

Western Civilization is more Roman than Americans want to admit.

Notwithstanding modern usage, the term “barbarians” in verse 14 simply refers to foreign (non-Roman) people. The “barbarians” to whom Paul referred were obviously not backward savages. This is evident because Paul was ready to preach the gospel of the kingdom to them – which he could not do if they were unreceptive ignorant savages. Furthermore, if they had truly been backward savages, how could they have conquered Rome a few years later? Furthermore, these “Barbarians” were apparently descended from Israel – since Paul was sent to carry the gospel to them.

Verse 15 shows us that Paul had wanted to go to Rome ... and he eventually went. However, as we saw in the Acts Studies, when he finally went it was as a prisoner.

QUESTION: In our advanced technological society where we have overcome State religion and oppression, and we have so much freedom, how can modern man be so off track in his view of the Romans and the Barbarians? Why would the wrong view of history be taught in a free society such as America?

ROMANS I: 16-17 FAITH IN CHRIST -VS - FAITH IN MAN

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is God’s power for salvation to everyone that believes; to the Judean first, and to the Greek.

For in it God’s righteousness is being revealed from faith to faith: as it was written, The just shall live by faith.

THE GOOD NEWS (gospel) of the kingdom showed God’s power to save Israel through faith. Faith means confidence. If one has faith, he has confidence in something or someone. Faith is the ability to trust in something or someone. Thus, the righteousness of God is revealed in his people when they trust Him and exercise confidence in Him. This is also stated in the Old Testament book of Habakkuk:

4. Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

5. *Yea, also, because he transgresses by wine, he is a proud man, neither keeps at home, who enlarges his soul as hell, and is as death in that it cannot be satisfied, ...*

Habakkuk 2:4-5

Here is a contrast between a corrupt soul, and another who lives by faith. One man's soul is lifted up in himself, and is not right.

The man described by Habakkuk portrays faithlessness. He has faith in nothing. He trusts no one. This man is contrasted against the man who lives by faith in God. Paul also makes reference to people who have the gift of faith: the ability to trust. The just are strong because they are capable of trusting in Christ, while the faithless are weak and miserable because they are incapable of trusting.

ROMANS 1:18-20 GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO MAN

For the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven upon all impiety and injustice of the men who unjustly suppress the truth;

Through which their awareness of God is evident in them; for God has made it known to them.

For from the creation of the world, things which are unseen are understood by the things that are made, even his everlasting power and Godship; so that they are without excuse:

IN THE GREEK, verse 18 is clear. God's wrath was being revealed. At that very moment the judgment of God was evident in the lives of certain irreverent and unjust men who were suppressing the truth. These were men who were in the business of confusing people; men who knew what they were doing. Paul was directing this indictment at the political and religious systems in Judea and Rome. There is nothing new under the Sun. Today, as then, the established political and religious systems are constantly polishing their methods of deception while they continue to invent more wickedness in high places.

Verse 19 is particularly interesting. Paul says that awareness of God is evident even in irreverent and unjust men. There are things about God which are evident to everyone. This universal evidence affords an opportunity to all men to pursue truth ... if they are interested in truth. It also infers that irreverent and unjust men choose to reject truth, and to pursue unrighteousness. It's not that they are prevented from understanding about God because they aren't good enough, or smart enough, or etc. Rather, it means that truth is available to any man who is honest enough to accept it. Rejection of truth equals dishonesty.

So how did Jesus reveal Yahweh?

Jesus exemplified God's Law. He represented the Father's business (his Kingdom). By His teachings and His life He revealed God's ways as they pertain to mortal man. This means Jesus reflected Yahweh much the same as we attempt to reflect Jesus in our lives. Jesus was not Yahweh, and we are not Jesus. But we manifest Jesus by trusting Him, and by sharing our faith.

Jesus was born to be God's representative in the flesh. Others have revealed God in limited ways, but their contributions can't compare to Jesus' contribution. Obviously, Jesus was God's ultimate expression to mankind. That is why He is also called "the Logos" (the Word; the Communication).

In the KJV Bible, the translators inserted the pagan term "Godhead" into verse 20. The term is used to paganize the reader's mind and to trigger his thoughts to envision an idol. That image is a triune god - a single god with three faces. The Pagan imagination is fertile when it comes to creating gods.

The term "Godhead" appears in the text of the KJV three times. In every instance it is a wrong translation: a pagan insertion. The correct translation, depending on the context, is "God, Godship, or God-like" (i.e., the quality or status of being a god). The term confers no more nor less - certainly no description of a multi-faced god.

The unseen things, Paul says, are revealed by the things that are seen. In other words, the things of the spirit (the powers behind creation) are evidenced by the things that are created (including Jesus and the rest of creation). For example, a scientist can look through a microscope at a physical particle and analyze it chemically. With this, and other advanced tests, he can deduce a number of things about it. He can figure out where it came from, whether it is living or inanimate, whether it is healthy, unhealthy, what plant or animal family it belongs to, etc. Visible things can reveal unseen things. Visible things can also manifest the invisible things of God. For instance, visible Jesus taught us about the unseen Father, as explained in the Gospel of John.

8. *Philip said to him, Lord, show us the Father and it is sufficient to us.*

9. *Jesus said to him, I have been with you so long a time, and you have not known me, Philip. One who has seen me has seen the Father; and how say you, Show us the Father?*

10. *Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I am not speaking from myself: but the Father who remains in me is doing his works.*

11. *Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me: or*

else believe on account of the works.

12. *Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who believes in me, the works that I am doing shall he do also; and greater than these*

13. *And whatever you shall ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

14. *If you shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.*

Jn. 14:8-14

Jesus taught us to see the Father who was in Him. By looking at the Creation we can understand the Creator. Remember, God's invisible things are realized through the visible things – God is evidenced by his creation. God's throne is revealed by the Son who reflects Yahweh's law; Yahweh's will; Yahweh's purpose.

"So they are without excuse" who do not see God and are ignorant of Him. Some may be more intelligent than others, but God is manifest in his creation ... so none have an excuse.

ROMANS 1:21-22 MAN SINS BY HIS OWN INVENTIONS

Because, having known God, they neither glorified nor thanked him as God; but they became vain in their thinking, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Professing themselves to be wise ones, they were made foolish,

“THEY” (vs. 21) obviously refers to unfaithful (“fallen”) Israelites (Heb. 3:17). It says they sinned because of their own thinking (reasoning without God's help). Man has done this to himself! Man destroys himself by trying to be his own god. Paul clearly places the blame upon man's own lustful sin nature, not on a “supernatural Satan.” Let's read it in the book of James:

13. *Let no man say, when he is tested, I am being tested from God. For God cannot be tested with evil, neither tests he any man (with evil);*

14. *But each man is tested by his own lust, being enticed and lured.*

15. *Then when lust has conceived, it produces sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.*

James 1:13.15

James says that man is brought down by his own internal lust - not by outside supernatural forces. This explanation agrees with Paul. Men become vain in their own reasoning and their foolish heart grows dark. But the darkness is from within. The problem is the vain reasoning of their own minds. Men left to themselves are left in darkness. They remain in darkness until they repent and accept the light that is from God. Light (God) comes from outside man. Humanism, however, teaches that man is the light, and that man is the highest life form in existence. Humanists reject light for the darkness of their own reasoning. However, since they have had some knowledge of God, they have no excuse for worshipping man (themselves).

In the next section, Paul lists some of the things people do to reveal themselves as fools.

QUESTION: But isn't there too much evil in the world for it all to have come from man alone? Wouldn't it have taken a supernatural devil to create all that evil?

ROMANS 1:23-25 FASHIONING GOD IN THE IMAGE OF MEN AND ANIMALS

And they changed the glory of the incorruptible God into the image of corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed creatures, and creeping things.

Wherefore, because of the lusts of their own hearts, God gave them up to uncleanness, to the dishonoring of their own bodies among them:

Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creation rather than the Creator who is the blessed One of the ages, Amen.

PEOPLE commonly worship the creation rather than the Creator. Man is a creation of God. When people worship man (Humanism) they are worshipping the creation instead of the Creator.

One of the ways man changes the glory of the incorruptible God into images like unto corruptible man is by the Judeo-Christian doctrine of “the Godhead” (i.e., Triune or Dual). These teach that the Father is a ghost who “incarnated” a baby (Jesus) and masqueraded as his own son. When they claim that the incorruptible Yahweh (incapable of dying) became Jesus (who died and was raised) they fit exactly Paul’s accusation of changing the glory of God to fit the image of man – changing the infinite into a finite image, and changing the incorruptible God into corruptible flesh. It is an idolatrous myth. Trinitarians and Dualists have done exactly what pagans have always done with the knowledge of the real God – they’ve turned it into pagan superstition. They’ve changed the truth of God into a lie.

Some creation-worshippers go as far as worshipping images of birds, four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Yes, there are people, even today, who worship birds, fish, wolves, coyotes, and other animals. The dung beetle was worshipped in Egypt at the time Paul wrote this letter to the Romans. Some people today worship trees and “Mother Earth.”

Some of the so-called “environmentalists” today fit into this category. Worshipping “Mother Earth” is an example of worshipping the creation instead of the Creator. There is a distinct difference between caring for the land, and worshipping the Earth.

In verse 24, Paul comments on God’s reaction to this kind of idolatry. Because of “the lusts of their own hearts” God “gave them up to un-cleanness,” which equates to “turning them over to the adversary” ... as it is called in other scriptures.

For instance, in I Corinthians 5 Paul gives the Corinthians the remedy for these kinds of sin:

4. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are motivated to gather together in my spirit, together with the power of our Lord Jesus,

5. To deliver such a one to the adversary for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 5:4,5

“The spirit,” in verse 5, is not the spirit of the idolater, but rather the spirit of holiness. They must cleanse the problem from their midst, otherwise the holy spirit would be quenched among them. Delivering such a man to “the adversary” does not mean to deliver him to a supernatural “Satan” ... as insinuated in the *KJV*. Rather, it means to turn such a one over to the lusts of his own heart. Let him pursue

his lusts. Cut him off, expel him, and let him reap the fruits of his own works. Then he may see the error of his way and repent. This formula is also noted in 2 Thessalonians: 2:

10. In every deceit of unrighteousness in them that are destroying themselves, in that they have not the love of the truth, that they might instead be saved.

11. And for this cause God sends them powerful delusion, that they should believe the lie:

12. That all those who have not believed the truth, and have delighted in unrighteousness, might be judged.

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

The absence of love for the truth is the surest method of getting lost. It says in verse 11 that if people prefer a lie, God will actually confuse them so they become more vulnerable to lies! God will actually send delusions.

“For the destruction of the flesh” means to step out of the way and let a man reap what he has sown ... until he tires of the ways of the flesh and decides to repent. You see, “the way of the flesh” is “the adversary” in this passage. The mythical supernatural “Satan” was added by the translators and the churches. The actual word - “satan” - means simply “adversary” (any adversary). Contrary to the world of pagan superstition, the problem of sin is man’s alone.

GOD’S JUDGMENT IS NOT POSTPONED

Much of the first chapter of Romans deals with judgment from God upon evildoers. Anytime God’s judgment falls upon man, Scripture calls it “the day of the Lord,” or “Judgment Day.” Each time it comes it is “The Judgment.” The Judgment of God has come many times, and still comes. Millennialists and Dispensationalists keep telling us that “The Judgment” comes only at the supposed “end of the world.” But in fact, God’s judgment falls any time He judges ... and the Lord brings judgment upon man whenever it is needed. There have been many “Judgment Days” and “Days of the Lord” throughout history. It only makes sense that in His kingdom, which has existed throughout history, He judges when and as He sees fit.

In the view of the churches, God is not in control, and his Kingdom is not yet implemented. Churches teach that the Kingdom, and God’s judgment, were canceled because He and Jesus are decommissioned on the other side of the galaxy. They say that God’s judgment must wait until He comes back to Earth and makes war against “The Devil” ... who currently controls the Earth. Then, God can make up for lost time and have one gigantic “judgment day” in which all people who ever lived will be judged in one day. By keeping God out of the current picture, control of the Earth is left to men ... and that is the way churches and governments prefer to think of it.

QUESTION: How can you belittle the name of Jesus by saying He was corruptible? Isn't that blasphemy? Jesus was no normal corruptible man! Aren't you trivializing the power and glory of God?

QUESTION: Are you saying that a love and respect for the conservation of our environment is "worshipping" the creation? Are you siding with the loggers, hunters, and ranchers who ravage the land?

ROMANS 1:26-32 THE WALKING DEAD: HATERS OF TRUTH

Through this, God gives them over to their shameful passions: for their women change the natural use into that which is against nature:

And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burn in their lust one toward another; men with men working the lewdness, and reaping the reward of their delusion that is due them.

And accordingly, as they choose not to have God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do things that are deviant.

Being filled with all unrighteousness, lewdness, depravity, covetousness, malice; full of envy, murder, strife, guile, craftiness; slander,

Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of wickedness, defiant to parents,

Without comprehension, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which do such things deserve death, not only do them, but also mutually consent with those who do them.

THIS passage unmistakably condemns homosexuality also called Lesbianism and Sodomy. Whoever practices this receives to themselves the recompense of their ways ... which they deserve. Sodomites and lesbians not only earn public contempt, they earn sickness and insanity. They are obstinate and willful. No laws, admonitions or warnings turn them from their wicked ways. However, threat of physical reprisal and threat of disease seems to make an impression on them ... both today and back in Paul's day.

Verse 28 describes man's greatest satan ("adversary"): the reprobate mind. We can choose to follow God, or we can choose to follow man. If we follow man, we follow the reprobate mind. Some people prefer to call it "satan," but if you use that terminology you must understand what "satan" is. It is not a fallen angel. It is the reprobate mind! It is the depraved, dark proclivities of godless man. It is the human condition into which man is born. Without God's light we are its prey. It obscures man's life and blinds him ... until God's light penetrates it. With light from God, man can overcome the darkness.

Paul's message is down-to-earth: God gives unrepentant man over to his own reprobate mind to do himself harm. He knows the judgment of God even before he earns it! Think about it! Paul says these people knew God's

judgment. They knew they were destroying themselves, and they went ahead and did it anyway. Furthermore, they conspired together with others who were guilty of these things, and they created a common air of approval to make themselves feel justified in doing them.

Look around today and see how people intentionally break God's Law and then seek public approval for their sins. Look at the passing popularity of Sodomy and abortion. There is nothing new under the Sun.

So, a people whom God has turned over to a morbid condition of the mind is said to have "a reprobate mind." This is the morbid (dead) mind. Such minds are alive biologically, but dead spiritually. They are alone: without light. This is what is meant in verse 32 where certain people are described as "worthy of death." Not only do they choose death over life, but they delight in causing others to choose death with them.

We see it today as well. Nothing pleases a Sodomite more than recruiting a new Sodomite. Winning converts gives affirmation to their sick, evil lifestyle.

Drug addicts love to recruit new victims too, not only for financial gain, but because new recruits seem to justify the evil. As they say, misery loves company. Alcoholics love to make new alcoholics because it excuses their own weaknesses. It's the same with smokers. I've seen people on their deathbeds, their lungs destroyed by emphysema ... still smoking tobacco. Today there are millions of people dying of AIDS who refuse to denounce their wrong habits.

Truth appeals to a healthy, normal, honest mind. If you are alive spiritually, the truths of the Bible stimulate you and give you joy. But if you are spiritually dead, Bible truth causes the opposite reaction. It provokes resentment, stubbornness and wrath.

END OF ROMANS CHAPTER ONE

FOR ANSWERS AND NOTES, SEE "ANSWER SECTION."

ROMANS CHAPTER ONE

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. Paul was a called apostle of Jesus.
2. Paul wrote this letter to Rome while in Corinth on his third journey into Asia Minor and Europe.
3. Paul had been called to take the good news of Christ's Reign to the Israelites scattered north and west of Palestine ... including at Rome.
4. Some of the scattered Israelites were called "Barbarians," meaning that they lived outside the Roman Empire. The "Barbarians" mentioned in verse 14 were probably the same Germanic and Scandinavian tribes that later sacked Rome in the 5th century.
5. We must define Jesus properly if we are to worship Him properly. If Jesus was the Son of Yahweh, we cannot call Him Yahweh (or any other name) without changing his identity. Changing Jesus' identity, as churches do when they teach the doctrine of the Trinity, is the same as denying Him.
6. Jesus has been ordained by the Father to be our King, and the One to whom we should pray. Men have no authority to go directly to Yahweh in prayer. Only to, and through, Jesus.
7. Everyone has faith in someone (or something) – either a god, an organization, or themselves. Christians must have faith in Christ, and thus in Christ's Father. Inability to trust Christ, or a tendency to trust self, leads to spiritual death.
8. God reveals himself to everyone, even those who never had the Scriptures. He reveals himself through his creation. Thus, no one is justified in their ignorance.
9. Man sins by his own decision to reject God. Sin abides in man without God as darkness abides in a room without light.

10. God's judgment is present active. Any time His judgment falls upon man, it is called "the judgment" or "the day of judgment." There have been many "judgment days," and there will still be more to come.

11. Those who hate truth are dead even as they live. The "reprobate mind" is man's greatest satan and evidence of death abiding within him.

ANSWERS:

pg. 4

A "god" is, by definition, a "mighty one" – any mighty one.

There is no Bible verse telling us there is only one god. Indeed, scripture tells us there are many gods in the world (Ex. 18:11; Ps. 135:5; I Cor. 8:5). The judges are "gods" (Ex 21:6 & 22:8; I Sam. 2:25 - see Stong's Concordance), David is a "god" (Ps. 45:6, 7), and the saints are "gods" (Ps. 82:1,6; Jn. 10:34).

By definition Jesus "a god" for He is a Mighty One.

The First Commandment is sometimes misconstrued to say that there are no other gods. In fact it actually says that we are to have no other gods competing with Yahweh.

pg. 5

Ritual and pomp does not impress God. He wants sincerity and honesty, not pagan ritual.

It is for God, not for man, to decide whose prayer is answered. God is not limited. It does not confuse Yahweh when men pray to the wrong god. However, it DOES confuse the men, and it breeds idolatry.

God wants us to correctly identify Him for OUR OWN GOOD. Otherwise, we end up with false gods.

It is incumbent upon us to know who we pray to. To misidentify God is an insult to Him, and a sure road to confusion and idolatry for us.

pg. 6

Modern America is no more free and enlightened than was Rome in the first century. You must reconcile yourself to one or the other: either the Bible is right, or Rome was right, and modern America is right. It cannot be both ways. Technological advancement does not equate to righteousness. Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome were all advanced ... but they were not right. By the same token, technologically-advanced America is NOT right.

pg. 8

It is an economy of light and darkness. Man can choose to live in darkness, or he can choose to accept light from God. Darkness is automatic without God. No supernatural devil is needed to create darkness - merely the absence of light (God). Darkness exists where light is rejected. But light easily destroys darkness, as candle-light cuts through the blackest night.

As darkness is the rejection of light, sin is the rejection of God. Sin requires no supernatural devil.

pg. 10

a) Jesus was "corruptible," otherwise He was not mortal. If He was not mortal He could not have been tempted to sin (Matt. 4; Heb. 2: 18). The glory of God is in the fact that while Jesus was capable of sinning, He never did (II Cor. 5:21).

b) True conservation of the environment can be accomplished only through following the laws of God, not through pagan worship of "Mother Earth." Governments, and government agencies, have not saved the environment. They have raped it. Loggers, hunters, and ranchers, following God's laws, are the best protectors of the environment.