

HAVE IT YOUR WAY!

Romans 1:18-32

I've tried to find NICE way to communicate Paul's words

There's NO nice way to express what's happened as result of people's rejection of God's right to rule.

Before we can appreciate the good news, we must understand the bad news.

2 MAJOR PREMISES summarize the good news:

1. Gospel is THE power God has provided, by which all who trust Christ are saved.

1:16 [p. 1553] *"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: 1st for the Jew, then for the Gentile."*

2. God's righteousness is given to people who trust Him 17 *"In the gospel a righteousness*

from God is revealed, a righteousness that's by faith from 1st to last, as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith"

God's kind of righteousness is based on faith:

"Just people live by faith!"

In spite of God's provision, people want to do it ourselves

We want to have it our way.

When we see what our way produces, we see why having it our way will never "make it" with God!

Paul describes problem in Rom. 1:18-32

What happens when we have it our way?

Human Condition 18 *"The wrath of God is being re-vealed from heaven against all the godlessness & wicked-ness of men*

who suppress the truth by their wickedness”

Salvation ***by faith*** is urgent because of our ungodliness
Unbelief has *never* been due to lack of evidence.

People know enough about God to respond properly to Him

1. God’s existence is evident 19 *“What may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.”*

2. Creation shows God’s power & sovereignty 20
“Since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power & divine nature –have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

Creation provides evidence if people want to know truth

“What about people who’ve never heard?”

Paul says people HAVE heard! We’re ***without excuse!***

People **CHOOSE** to leave God out of their life.

[Swindoll]: **How cars came into existence:** Millions of yrs ago, iron, glass, rubber, plastic, & wires came out of ground. Each formed itself into various shapes & sizes. Holes evolved at right places, upholstery began to weave itself together. Threads appeared on bolts & nuts & each bolt found nuts with matching threads. Gradually everything tightened itself in place. Shaped glass glued itself in right places. Tires became round. They found right-sized metal wheels & popped on. They filled themselves with air. It began to roll down the street. They developed a way of

multiplying year after year, changing to meet demand.

Existence of car tells story about its maker.

Existence of people tells story about our Maker!

3. People *know the truth about God 21* *“Although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile & their foolish hearts were darkened.*

4. People are aware of standards by which God judges 32 *“They know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death”*

People know the truth about God!

HOW DO PEOPLE RESPOND TO TRUTH THEY KNOW?

1. People deliberately suppress the truth 18

They try to drown it out.

2. People refuse to honor & give thanks to God 21 **3. People pursue foolish thinking that leaves God out 22**

“Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools”

4. People refuse to acknowledge God 28 *“They did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God.”*

5. People commit evil we know is wrong 32 *“Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they ...continue to do these very things...”*

6. People applaud those who do what we know is wrong 32 *“They... approve of those who practice them”*

Wgat do people trade in to have it our way?

1. They *exchange* God's glory for man-made images **23** "[They] exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man & birds & animals & reptiles"

We trade in *the greatest* for image that can't help us!

2. They *exchange* God's truth for lies **25** "They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, & worshiped & served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen."

They WORSHIP CREATURE rather than CREATOR!

3. They *exchange* natural relations for perverted relations **26-27** "Their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women & were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, & received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion."

Don't miss point: **This condition is not an accident!**

People deliberately reject God do wrong

Therefore, they're without excuse 19-20

God allows people to have it their way--

Because of choice to suppress truth,

God's reaction: **"God gave them over" (3X)**

Each "trade-in"=>God gives people up to *consequences*

Difference between symptoms and root issue!

NOT resolved by focusing on perversion;

Focus on godlessness!

God's wrath is revealed against *suppressing truth*

–know about God, but *CHOOSE* to turn their back
Because of our choices God let us have it our way
 => perverted lifestyle; NOT other way around!

God lets us suffer consequences of our sin:

1. *God gave them over to impure desires 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.*”

Faced with foolishness, God gives them hearts’ desire!

Humanism leads to *dehumanizing*—everyone’s a victim!

2. *God gave them over to degrading passions 26-27*

“*Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts*

“Traded in” attraction God designed for perversion.

Gen 1 to present: **degenerative pattern:**

Rejection of Word=>rejection of God who gave Word.

Isolated sins => norm, fall of society isn’t far behind.

3. *God gave them over to depraved minds 28*

“*Since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a **depraved mind**, to **do** what ought not to be done.*”

3rd consequence: depraved mind => disobedient action

29-31 “*They’ve become filled with every kind of wicked-ness, evil, greed & depravity. They’re full of envy, murder, strife, deceit & malice. They’re gossips, ³⁰slanderers, God- haters, insolent, arrogant & boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹they’re senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.*”

List is representative—every kind of evil imaginable.

Crime & violence=> way of life, heterosexual & homo-sexual promiscuity flaunted & celebrated, child abuse God mocked; His name defiled for 'entertainment'".

Ultimate illustration when we "have it our way."

We KNOW we aren't doing right; deserve judgment

People go on that way & **applaud others.**

Cal Thomas: "If there's no God... If we're just matter & energy shaped by chance, in random universe with no Creator and no purpose, why shouldn't we just behave as we wish, with whomever we wish?"

THAT'S CONSEQUENCE OF HAVING IT OUR WAY!!!

How likely is it people living this way could earn salvation?

Having it our way never leads to salvation!

Having it our way leads to condemnation!

Only way to please God, to salvation in future, meaningful life today: let God have his way.

No matter how far we've sunk—**good news:**

Christ came to offer LIFE!

**Bottomline: We must come to Christ God's way:
by trusting His Son! That's good news!**