

Life In The Balance – A Series On Romans
Chapter 1 – Innocent or Guilty?

When we're wronged, hurt, mistreated, or abused, we want justice.

When we have a secret, we want mercy.

John Calvin: "If a man understands Romans he has a sure road open to help him understand the entire Bible."

Richard Halbertson: "In a very basic sense, western civilization is a by-product of Paul's letter to the Romans. Nothing was written by man that had a greater impact on modern history."

- Augustine... Martin Luther... John Wesley...
- **Swiss Bible Commentator:** "Every great revival in history that ever started can somehow be related to this book."

Romans 1:18-32 (NIV)

Court Room Scene

- The **case:** Mankind's innocence or guilt before God.
- The **charge:** Mankind has deliberately rejected God.
- The **prosecutor:** The Apostle Paul.
- The **accused:** All of humanity.
- The **defense:** Humanity is without excuse.
- The **verdict:** _____

Romans 1:18 (NIV) *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.*

The Wrath of God

1. Our idea of wrath is different from God's.

- "thermos" = A blast of anger. Sudden temper. Explosive anger.
- "orge" = Controlled anger. It's settled, it's not impulsive.
- God gets angry at SIN.

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2. The _____ of God's wrath.

Romans 1:18 (NIV) *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men*

- God's wrath is revealed against...
Godlessness (living as if God doesn't exist)
 and Wickedness (living without any rules)
- Godlessness is a SIN against God.
- Wickedness is a SIN against Others.

The evidence for GODLESSNESS: Romans 1:19-23 (NIV)

- God has revealed Himself to us in 3 ways:
 - EXHIBIT A: Unmistakeable
 - EXHIBIT B: Universal
 - EXHIBIT C: Undeniable
- We're "guilty" of all accounts of Godlessness.

The evidence for WICKEDNESS: Romans 1:24, 26, 28 (NIV)

- "God gave them over" means...God allows us to...
reap the results of our own choices.

God's verdict: Romans 1:32 (NIV)

- God has found us guilty.

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