

## *First the Bad News* — from the series *The Epistle to the Romans*

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By Stuart Briscoe

Scripture: Romans 1:18-32

*“Gospel” means “good news,” but to many people it clearly is not particularly good. The reason may be that they have not realized how bad the bad news is because they have overlooked the wrath of God.*

### I. **The Reality of the Wrath of God.**

- A. An unavoidable biblical truth. vv. 18; 1 Thessalonians 1:10
- B. An unmistakable historical fact.
- C. An undeniable moral necessity.
  - 1. God’s ‘rightness’ requires it.
  - 2. God’s love reflects it.
  - 3. Man’s design assumes it.
- D. An unpopular contemporary concept
  - 1. Rejecting plain teaching.
  - 2. Misunderstanding true meaning.

### II. **The Reasons for the Wrath of God.**

- A. Human attitudes towards God—“ungodliness.”
- B. Human antipathy towards righteousness—“wickedness.”
- C. Human activity against God.
  - 1. Human suppression of truth.
    - a. Knowledge of God is plain.
    - b. Man is not ignorant—He is resistant.
    - c. Invisible has been made visible since creation. Acts 17:24-28
    - d. Man’s resistance is inexcusable—he is accountable.
  - 2. Human rejection of God.
    - a. Refusal to acknowledge God’s glory.
    - b. Refusal to appreciate God’s grace.
    - c. Fertile minds became futile.
    - d. Wisdom produced only folly.
  - 3. Human substitution of creation.
    - a. God made man in His own image.
    - b. God also created animals to be governed by man.
    - c. Man made God in his own image.
    - d. Man then made God like the animals.
    - e. Man totally reversed the order.
    - f. Man substituted lies for truth.
    - g. Man worshipped creature and insulted Creator.
  - 4. Human celebration of evil.
    - a. Man ignores Divine reproof.
    - b. Man continues in disobedience.
    - c. Man delights in encouraging sin.

### III. **The Revelation of the Wrath of God.**

- A. The wrath of God will be revealed. 1 Thessalonians 1:10
- B. The wrath of God is being revealed.
  - 1. Man abused His God-given freedom.
  - 2. So God ‘gave them over’ to the consequences.
  - 3. The results are confusion and corruption.
    - a. Spiritual.
    - b. Sexual.
    - c. Societal.

**Conclusion:** The wrath of God is revealed all around us—that’s the bad news. The rightness of God is revealed in the Gospel—that’s the good news.