

Don Carson on Romans 1

HOW DOES THE WRATH OF GOD manifest itself, according to the Scriptures?

There is no short answer to that question, because the answers are many, depending on an enormous array of circumstances. God’s wrath wiped out almost the entire human race at the Flood. Sometimes God’s punishment of his own covenant people is remedial. Sometimes it is immediate, not the least because it then tends to be instructive (like the defeat of the people at Ai after Achan stole some silver and fine Babylonian clothes): at other times, God forbears, which at one level is gracious, but granted the perversity of God’s image-bearers, is likely to let things get out of hand. The final display of God’s wrath is hell itself (see, for instance, Rev.14:6ff).

Romans 1:18ff pictures the revelation of God’s wrath in a slightly different way. What Paul presents here is not the only thing to say about God’s wrath-even in Paul-but it contributes something very important. Not only is God’s wrath being revealed against “all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness” (Rom.1:18), but it manifests itself in such sins—that is, in God’s giving people over to do what they want to do (Rom.1:24-28).

In other words, instead of rebuking them in remedial judgment or curtailing their wickedness, God “gave them over”: to “Shameful lusts” (1:26) and a “depraved mind” (Rom.1:28). The result is multiplying “wickedness, evil, greed and depravity” (Rom.1:29). The picture painted in the rest of the verses of Romans 1 is not a pretty one.

We must reflect a little further as to what this means. In our short-sightedness we sometimes think God is a little abrupt when in certain passages, not least in the Old Testament, he instantly chastens his people for their sins. But what is the alternative? Quite simply, it is not instantly chastening them. If chastening were merely a matter of remedial education to morally neutral people, the timing and severity would not matter very much; we would learn. But the Bible insists that this side of the Fall we are by nature and persistent choice rebels against God.

If we are chastened, we whine at God’s severity. If we are not chastened, we descend into debauchery until the very foundations of society are threatened. We may then cry to God for mercy. Well and good, but at least we should see that it would have been a mercy if we had not been permitted to descend so far down into the abyss.

Granted the shape and trends in Western culture, does this not argue that we are already under the severe wrath of God? Have mercy, Lord!

giving: financial stewardship update

Last Week: \$4,189.95
Weekly Required (for 2018): \$5,520.00
Shortfall (for 2018): \$ 970.00

electronic fund transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544
Description: Offering

18 February 2018

welcome to sle church

We are delighted to have you join us today! It is our prayer that you will enjoy all aspects of our gathering this morning.

about

The ‘SL’ in ‘SLE’ means St Lucia. The suburb our church is located in. The ‘E’ stands for English. We are a church family made of many migrant families from across South-East Asia, and we are English speaking. The ‘E’ also stands for Evangelical. We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services.

get connected

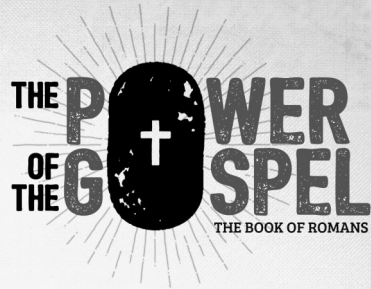
Please join us for refreshments and a chat after the service. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are new to SLE Church, have a prayer request, family news, or change of contact details please email: info@slechurch.org.au or call 3371 7589.

Connect with us online: slechurch.org.au or ‘like’ us for further updates at facebook.com/slechurch

service times

9:00am (North Hall)
11:40am (South Hall)





serving grace

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Simeon	Mervin
Preach	Ps Ben	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Matthew <i>Alan</i>	Boon Cheng <i>Marilyn</i>
M.Tea	Ethel Elleen	Helen Tania
Wash Up	SaLT	YF Sunday
Welcome	Philip Mee Lan Amy <i>Zach</i> <i>Wei-En</i> <i>Jessica</i> <i>Andrew</i>	Philip Mee Lan Amy <i>Zach</i> <i>Wei-En</i> <i>Jessica</i> <i>Andrew</i>
Stewards	Philip Norman <i>Josh</i> <i>Aaron</i> <i>Stanley</i>	Philip Norman <i>Josh</i> <i>Aaron</i> <i>Stanley</i>
Piano	Sylvia	Joanna
Guitar etc	Chuan Yuan	Dom, Kevin
Drums	Lucas	Marcus/ Ariel
Vocal	Jolene	Sharne
PA	William/ LiWei Daniel	Reuten Jowin

current sermons

Last Week: Parables in Luke #3: Three Times Found
[Luke 15:1-32]

This Week: The Gospel Is... [Romans 1:1-17]

Next Week: [Romans 1:18-3:20]

prayer points

- Praise God for the New Year (again!). Praise God that many of our times of celebrating with friends and family around Chinese New Year is a joy and a time of rest. Pray that we would be mindful to include those who are not with family, or do not have family.
- Praise God that the move to the 'South Hall' in the second service has gone relatively well. Pray that those serving and those attending would be mindful of our use of the space. Pray that God would use the extra space to continue to draw people to hearing about Jesus. Pray that the preaching and services will continue to be gospel-centred.
- Praise God for the many international students who are making their way to Brisbane for studies. Pray that they would connect well with church families, including our own, to be encouraged and equipped in their faith while they study here.
- Continue praying for our church in regards to articulating and affirming our biblical mission, our core values, and our particular vision for SLE Church. Pray for wisdom for our leaders as they draft this vision, and that our church would engage supportively with it.

community news

1. Stop the Press!! Second Service Time and Location Change!

Please take especial notice of the time and location change for our second service.

Time: 11:30am (begin entering hall—do NOT enter before this time); 11:40am service starts.

Location: St Lucia South Hall (formerly HET/Chinese Hall)

2. SLE Church Members (and committed attendees) Meeting

All members and those committed to SLE Church are invited and encouraged to attend an information session on 18th February, from 10:45-11:15am in the North Hall (prev. SLE Hall).

Over the past few months, we have started to consider what God's mission, values and visions are with regards to our church. To follow up, we have planned for the meeting to cover the following:

- explain the terms, processes and timeline of formulating the Mission, Vision and Values (MVV)
- share what processes the SLE Church Council have been undertaking
- begin the process of hearing from the members and committed attendees on these issues.

This process of developing our MVV will impact all of us as individuals and as a church, so we hope that you will come along and be a part of these discussions.

Please make this meeting a top priority. See you on **18th Feb at 10:45am**, in the North Hall.

church contacts

83 Ryans Road,
St Lucia 4067
3371 7589
info@slechurch.org.au

Pastor Ben Ho
m: 0433 581 335
e: ben.ho
@slechurch.org.au

Pastor Steven Tran
m: 0411 621 159
e: steven.tran
@slechurch.org.au

The Gospel Is... [Rom 1:1-17]

1. Introduction

A. The Greatest Letter Ever Written

B. Background

2. What is the gospel? (vv1-5, 16-17)

A. The gospel is... God's gospel

B. The gospel is... grounded in history

C. The gospel is... about God's Son

D. The gospel is... being obedient to God's Son

E. The gospel is... for everyone

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

3. Implications for Paul (vv8-15)

A. Thankfulness

B. Eagerness to preach

4. Implications for Us

A. Believe the gospel

B. Promote the gospel

5. Conclusion