No Substitutes

Intro: As a basis for our study turn to Romans 1. In this great chapter Paul sets forth for our consideration several principles which are necessary to the success of mankind. There is no substitute and can be no substitute for these principles. When these principles disappear from a people, that people will suffer the wrath of God; Rom. 1:18 “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.” Thus, let us study some things of which there can be no substitution.

I. For God
   A. Rom. 1:18-20, 23-25 “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:… 23And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 24Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”
   B. Nature proves the existence of God.
      1. Ps. 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”
      2. Cosmological Argument.
         a. For every effect there must be sufficient or adequate cause.
         b. Put in argument form: If a contingent being exist, then the absolute necessary being (God) exist; I (a contingent being) exist; therefore God exist.
      3. Teleological Argument.
         a. The marvelous design (hand, eye, etc.) involved in these can only be explained in light of a designer (God).
         b. Put in argument form there is a deduction from order and adjustment to design, and in turn, from design to Designer (God). Since it is quite obvious that order and adjustment do exist, it is equally clear that God exist.
   C. A sense of oughtness in man testifies of God.
      1. This is referred to as the Moral argument.
      2. There does exist such a thing as outside, objective, moral law; there is moral law beyond (greater then) international law.
      3. This is deduction from the objectivity of right and wrong to the ultimate Good (God) by which real right and wrong are determined.
   D. Man has substituted other things for God.
      1. Paul speaks of those who substituted idols for God.
         a. As a result they had become morally bankrupt.
         b. God wrath had been poured out upon them.
      2. Others have substituted work, job, success, pleasure, money, family, etc. for God.
II. THE GREAT FAITH

A. Rom. 1:8-10 “First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. 9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; 10 Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.”

B. Individual life of faith

1. The need for a great faith.
   a. 2 Thes. 1:3 “We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;”
   b. Faith is necessary to please God; Heb. 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

2. Must be an individual faith.
   a. We must not try to live on the faith of others.
      (1) Gal. 6:5 “For every man shall bear his own burden.”
      (2) Often parent never develop within their children their own personal faith, thus when they grow up they leave Christ.
      (3) Others try to live on the faith of the elders or preacher or other family members or others.
   b. We must develop our own faith and learn to increase our faith.
      (1) Luke 17:5 “And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.”
      (2) Mark 9:24 “And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.”
   c. How we can develop a great faith.
      (1) Study; 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
      (2) Recognize the value of your soul; Mat. 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”
      (3) Prayer; 1 Thes. 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”
      (4) Faithfully attend all services of the church.
      (5) Fellowship with faithful brethren;
         (a) Rom. 16:1-2 “I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: 2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.”
         (b) 1 Cor. 15:33 “Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals.” (ASV)
   d. We must learn to do things ourselves (visit sick, those who are not faithful, ask to teach a class, invite others to attend worship, etc.), not wait to be asked or told.

III. RIGHT KIND OF HOME

A. Rom. 1:26-27 “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another: men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.”
B. **Homosexuality is sin, against nature**

1. This is proven by the fact that they cannot reproduce.
   2. Lev. 18:13, 22 “If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them…. 22Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.”
   3. 1 Cor. 6:9 “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,” The NKJV has, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,”
   4. Jude 7 “Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

C. **Only Three classes of people can marry.**

1. Those never married.
   a. 1 Cor. 7:28 “But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.”
   b. 1 Cor. 7:38 “So then he that giveth her in marriage doeth well; but he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better.” The last part of the verse is in view of the present distress.

2. A widow; one who lost their mate by death.
   a. Rom. 7:2-3 “For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. 3So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.”
   b. 1 Cor. 7:39 “The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.”

3. The one who is innocent and puts away their spouse because the spouse committed fornication.
   a. Mat. 19:9 “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”
   b. Mat. 5:32 “But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”

D. **The right kind of home goes beyond the proper marriage partner.**

1. The husband as the head of the home showing proper love and honor for the wife.
   a. Eph. 5:23, 25 “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body…. 25Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”
   b. Col. 3:19 “Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.”
   c. 1 Pet. 3:7 “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

2. The wife in submission to and obedience of her husband.
   a. Eph. 5:22, 24 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord…. 24Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.”
b. Tit. 2:4-5 “That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

c. 1 Pet. 3:1,6 “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;... Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.”

3. The parents training the children.
   a. Eph. 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
   b. Pro. 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

4. The children in obedience to and honoring the parents; Eph. 6:1-3 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

IV. For THE GOSPEL

A. Rom. 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

B. The Gospel is God’s only power to save man today.
   1. 1 Cor. 1:18 “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”
   2. Jam. 1:21 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
   3. It is only through our obedience to the Gospel that man can be saved.
      a. Rom. 6:17-18 “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”
      b. 2 The. 1:7-9 “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

C. There is the need for man to hear that Gospel.
   1. John 6:44-45 “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 45It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”
   2. Rom. 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
   3. That is why we are instructed to preach the Word.

D. Man has tried to substitute many things for the Gospel.
   1. Men have substituted their creeds, disciplines, etc., for the Gospel.
   2. Today men preach philosophy, short stories,
   3. John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
   4. That is why we are told to preach the Gospel.
      a. 2 Tim. 4:2 “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”
      b. 1 Cor. 1:23 “But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;”
V. OUR DESIRE TO PREACH THE GOSPEL.

A. **Rom. 1:14-15** “I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. 15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.”

B. **We are debtors.**

1. This implies we have an obligation.
   a. To God.
      (1) God sent His Son and Jesus came to save sinners.
          (a) John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
          (b) Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
          (c) Heb. 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for [ἀντί; means against] the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
      (2) God has left the work of saving mankind in man’s hands.
   b. To the lost.
      (1) They cannot be saved without the Gospel. It has been committed unto us.
      (2) Rom. 10:13-14 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”
   c. To self.
      (1) We have been given the command to do this
      (2) It helps remedy the sin of selfishness.
      (3) The man saved from sin can sympathize with sinful man, thus becoming more zealous to save them.

2. We have the obligation to preach the Gospel.
   a. Mark 16:15 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
   b. 2 Tim. 4:1-2 “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”
   c. It is God’s power to save; Rom. 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

C. **Paul had the desire to preach the Gospel.**

1. Notice his attitude.
   a. “As much as in me is”
   b. Rom. 9:2-3 “That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. 3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:”
   c. Rom. 10:1 “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”

2. Do we have the desire?
   a. Make it our purpose in life?
   b. Psa. 119:136 “Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.”

D. **We must be ready.**

1. 1 Pet. 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”
2. Indicates we must make the proper preparations.

E. We have substituted many things for that desire to preach the Gospel.

Conclusion: These are some of the important principles we must have if we are going to please God. Do you have the blessings of God in your life or do you have the wrath of God coming upon you?