

Week 2
Romans 1:18-3:31

1. **Overview**

Outline of Romans (Morpheew pages 12-13)

1:18-3:20	The prosecution of lost humanity	Red	Brown	Blue	
3:21-8:39	The defense of redeemed humanity	Red	Brown	Plum	
3:21-5:11	Justification by faith, Christ's work for us	Red	Brown	Plum	Pink
5:1-8:39	Sanctification through union, Christ's work in us	Red	Brown	Plum	Olive
9-11	The plan of salvation in terms of redemptive history	Red	Yellow		
12-15	Christian ethics and relationships, the imperative	Green			

Red and **Green** – divided into the doctrine of salvation (the indicative) and the outworking of salvation in relationship (the imperative).

Brown and **Yellow** – divided into the way of salvation and the plan of salvation, is part of a larger narrative on the doctrine of salvation (the indicative).

Blue and **Plum** – divided into prosecution and defense, is part of a larger narrative on the way of salvation.

Pink and **Olive**, justification and sanctification is part of a larger narrative on the defense of redeemed humanity.

Prosecuting sinful humanity / the 'divine no': 1:18-3:20

- **1:18-32:** God's wrath is being revealed against godlessness and wickedness. All people have some knowledge of God, through creation and conscience, yet refuse to acknowledge or worship him and instead suppress the truth. God thus 'turns them over' to do evil.
- **2:1-29:** Religious or 'good' people who know what God expects are no better than people that only have a general understanding. The fact that they recognise and disapprove of evil in other people confirms their own shortcomings.
- **3:1-3:20:** It's not that the Jewish law and religion were useless or unfair. These served to reveal God's expectations and the fact that everyone falls short of these requirements.

Defending saved humanity / the 'divine yes' – 3:21-4:25

- **3:21-3:26:** Unworthy people of all types can receive right standing before God, not by merit, but through faith in Jesus. This is God's unmerited gift of redemption and justification, made possible by the death of Jesus, God's Messiah.
- **3:27-3:31:** This good news excludes pride and inequality, but upholds God's high standards.

2. **Important Issues**

- **God's wrath**
- **Justification**

3. **Sidelights**

- **Diatribes / preaching style**
- **Homosexuality**
- **Judgement as a diagnosis of our own sin**

4. **Application**

- **Dealing with sin**
- **Leaving wrath and judgement to God**

5. **Memorable Verses**

- **Romans 3:10:** As it is written: 'There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.'
- **Romans 3:21-23:** But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.