

My Soul Thirsts For God, For The Living God • Part 2
“The Heart Of The Matter”
Romans 1:16 - 2:5

We are born spiritually dead, that is why one must be born again. Being dead means to be separated from someone or something. Adam’s sin separated him and all his descendants from God. This separation left us with longings that we cannot satiate apart from God. But oh how we try. Without Christ we all are on a blindfolded quest for an identity, a sense of purpose and experiences in order to feel alive. This universal condition of man is what Paul is describing in Romans 1.

“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”

C.S. Lewis

“all men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end...The will never takes the least step but to this object. This is the motive of every action of every man...”

Blaise Pascal

“Sin is building your identity on anything besides God.”

Soren Kierkegaard

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as **sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin**, and so **death spread to all men** because all sinned—

Genesis 5:3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image...

Genesis 3:10b ...I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.

Ephesians 2:1 And **you were dead** in the trespasses and sins

Ephesians 2:2 in which you **once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

Ephesians 2:3 among whom **we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.**

Ephesians 2:12 remember that you were at that time **separated from Christ, alienated** from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world.**

Colossians 1:21 And you, who once were **alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,**

Ecclesiastes 2:17 **So I hated life,** because what is done **under the sun** was grievous to me, **for all is vanity and a striving after wind.**

Romans 1:16 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.

Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, **“The righteous shall live by faith.”**

Romans 1:18 For the **wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.**

Romans 1:19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

Romans 1:20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. **So they are without excuse.**

Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became **futile in their thinking,** and their **foolish hearts were darkened.**

Romans 1:22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

Romans 1:23 and **exchanged the glory of the immortal God** for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Romans 1:24 **Therefore** God gave them up in the **lusts of their hearts to impurity,** to the **dishonoring of their bodies** among themselves,

Romans 1:25 because **they exchanged the truth about God for a lie** and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Romans 1:26 For this reason **God gave them up to dishonorable passions.** For their women **exchanged** natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;

Romans 1:27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were **consumed with passion** for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Romans 1:28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a **debased mind** (*v 18, 21*) to do what ought not to be done.

Romans 1:29 **They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness,** evil, covetousness, malice. **They are full of** envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,

Romans 1:30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

Romans 1:31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

Romans 1:32 Though **they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die,** they not only **do them but give approval to those who practice them.**

Genesis 2:17b ...you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die."**

Genesis 3:4b ...**"You will not surely die.**

Genesis 3:6b ...she took of its fruit and ate, and **she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.**

Romans 2:1 Therefore you have **no excuse,** O man, **every one of you who judges.** For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, **because you, the judge, practice the very same things.**

covetousness, malice, envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness.
They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

Romans 2:2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who **practice such things.**

Romans 2:3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?

Romans 2:4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Romans 2:5 But **because of your hard and impenitent heart** you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Mark 7:14 And he called the people to him again and said to them, **“Hear me, all of you, and understand:**

Mark 7:15 **There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.”**

Mark 7:17 And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable.

Mark 7:18 And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him,

Mark 7:19 since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.)

Mark 7:20 And he said, **“What comes out of a person is what defiles him.**

Mark 7:21 For **from within, out of the heart of man**, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,

Mark 7:22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.

Mark 7:23 **All these evil things come from within**, and they defile a person.”

“But what cannot be destroyed, may be dispossessed and **one taste may be made to give way to another, and to lose it’s power entirely** as the reigning affection of the mind. It is thus, that the boy ceases, at length, to be the slave of his appetite, but it is because a manlier taste has now brought it into subordination - and that the youth ceases to idolize pleasure, but it is because the idol of wealth has become the stronger and gotten the ascendancy and that even the love of money ceases to have the mastery over the heart of many a thriving citizen, but it is because drawn into, the whirl of city politics, another affection has been wrought into his moral system, and he is now lorded over by the love of power. **There is not one of these transformations in which the heart is left without an object.** Its desire for one particular object may be conquered; **but as to its desire for having some one object or other, this is unconquerable.**”

Thomas Chalmers

Jeremiah 17:9 **The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?**

Jeremiah 18:12 “But they say, ‘That is in vain! **We will follow our own plans, and will every one act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.**’

Jeremiah 24:7 **I will give them a heart to know that I am the LORD, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.**

Ezekiel 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

Ezekiel 36:26 And **I will give you a new heart**, and a new spirit I will put within you. And **I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.**

Ezekiel 36:27 And **I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.**

1Timothy 1:5 The aim of our charge is **love that issues from a pure heart** and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

2Timothy 2:22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those **who call on the Lord from a pure heart.**

Matthew 5:8 “Blessed are the **pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

Psalms 27:4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

Romans 6:17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once **slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,

Romans 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, **in my flesh.** For **I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.**

Romans 7:24 Wretched man that I am! **Who will deliver me from this body of death?**

Romans 7:25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, **I myself serve the law of God with my mind,** but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.