

# *Transformed!*

How God Renews the Lives  
of His People

# *Get Personal*

## Part 1: *What's Wrong with Me?*

We called last week *Part 1*, but then we changed it to *Introduction*.

### A Note from Pastor Keith...

We all know the feeling. We're not the people we want to be—not even close. It's not that we don't know right from wrong. We do. Yet we continue to think and say and do things we're not proud of, things that hurt others and ourselves. And even though we've promised ourselves a thousand times that we would change, we continue to struggle and fail. Perhaps you've even asked yourself, "What's wrong with me?"

Today we got an amazing God's-eye-view of the source of our spiritual struggles. This is important because once we understand the real problem, we're set up to recognize and appreciate the solution.

But the solution comes later. For now, we need to go deeper—deeper than ever before—in our understanding of the problem *and* its personal implications and manifestations. So let's get personal. Set aside some time this week to explore in greater depth the HUGE issues we glanced at this morning.

## *What's Wrong with Me?*

### Focus Passage:

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness...

Romans 1:18 (all references are NIV)

Today we looked at Three Questions:

1. **What truth/knowledge are we suppressing?**
2. **How are we suppressing it?**
3. **How is God's wrath being revealed against us?**

These questions are raised in Romans 1:18 and answered in Romans 1:19-32. They are *the key* to understanding your struggle with sin.

Let's remind ourselves of the Answers:

1. **What truth/knowledge are we suppressing?**

*The UNDENIABLE TRUTH that God is God and is entitled to OUR WORSHIP.*

## *Get Personal!*

Use this section to explore your own life. Go deep! Be honest—brutal, even! If you are not ready to share your thoughts with someone else, OK. If you are, that's even better! But the MOST IMPORTANTLY, *go deep with yourself!*

### Applying Question and Answer #1

How should our knowledge of the truth of God's eternal power and divine nature show up in our lives? How should it impact our thoughts and behavior?

**2. How are we suppressing that knowledge?**

*Through our actions! By giving glory and gratitude NOT to God, but to CREATED THINGS.*

*We're worshipping the WRONG THING!*

**3. How is God's wrath being revealed against us?**

*THIS IS THE KEY to the first half of the book of Romans and more importantly TO YOUR WHOLE STRUGGLE WITH SIN:*

**Key Phrase: "God gave them over..."**

Therefore God gave them over...

Romans 1:24a

Because of this, God gave them over...

Romans 1:26a

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over ...

Romans 1:28a

**God gave us over to what? *Spiritual bondage!***

Therefore God gave them over in the *sinful desires of their hearts...*

Romans 1:24a

Because of this, God gave them over to *shameful lusts...*

Romans 1:26a

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a *depraved mind*, to do what ought not to be done.

Romans 1:28a

- *We said, "No, we will not honor you with our lives."*
- *God said, "So be it," and allowed us to slip into spiritual bondage, becoming slaves to our own choice.*

**How deep is it? *We actually celebrate our bondage!***

Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Romans 1:32

*THIS is how God's wrath is being revealed.*

*THIS is the root of our struggle with sin.*

*THIS is what must be overcome if we are to be Transformed!*

**Applying Question and Answer #2**

Each of us is a TRIBUTE, a living, breathing, walking, talking proclamation of the value and importance of...something. What is that *something* in your life?

**Applying Question and Answer #3**

Now we're getting *really* personal! Again, if you can't be honest with others, at least be honest with yourself. Here we go...

How are you experiencing that spiritual bondage in your life?

How have you attempted to free yourself?

(To borrow a phrase from Dr. Phil.)  
How's that working for you?

What does that tell you?

**Next Week: *What Your Conscience Is Trying to Tell You***