

Vintage: Changing Times. Changeless God.

Week 2: The Good Thing About Bad News

Weekly Summary: As much as we hate to be judged, that is what we do all day long. Judging other people's character, choices, clothes, personality, driving, parenting, and pretty much everything else. In this section of Romans, Paul gives us an honest, unchanging standard for thinking about ourselves and for other people. (Warning: This message is not for the faint of heart!)

- ❖ Bad news is **good** for you.

- ❖ Romans 1:18a - The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people.

Romans 1:29-32 - They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. 32 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.

- ❖ The wrath of God is being revealed...For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him...They did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God...

- ❖ Romans 1:24 / Romans 1:26 / Romans 1:28 - "God gave them over."

- ❖ Bad news is better than **worse** news.

- ❖ "Then she writes a song about me. I'm like, 'Okay, cool. That's how you want to deal with it? Karma.' You do something and there's gonna be a reaction. I think, personally, that women together - not divided ... - women together will heal the world."

- ❖ Romans 2 (various verses) - "You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things...You, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery?...As it is written: 'God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.'"

- ❖ Bad news is better than **ignored** news.

- ❖ Romans 1:5a - "Through [Jesus], we received grace."

Points to Ponder

1. Agree/Disagree—Talking about our sin every Sunday is a recipe for self-loathing and spiritual depression.
2. Read Luke 24:45-47, focusing on v.47. Name two reasons why Jesus gave Christians the mission to preach "repentance" and not just the forgiveness of sins?
3. Evaluate—The biggest threat to our faith is not thinking we are too sinful to be forgiven, but thinking we are too good to need forgiveness.

Homework For Next Week: Romans 3:21-4:25

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."

~ Jesus

Worship Through Song at The CORE:

1. "I Will Follow" - by Chris Tomlin
2. "Before The Throne Of God Above" - by Shane & Shane
3. "I Am Set Free" - by All Sons & Daughters
4. "Made New" - by Lincoln Brewster