

Romans 1b - The Good News



Opening Questions

- The bible, both OT and NT, speak more often of God's wrath than His love. Why do people ignore that fact?
- Does that make His love and tenderness any less an attribute of God?
- Are we dead because of our sin, or do our sins demonstrate our existing death?
- Is everyone on earth culpable for the knowledge of God?
- Are the wide-spread behaviors of God deniers a last day sign?

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and [worshiped and served] the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Q: (v18) What is the wrath of God and is it justified?

- The wrath of God is not a sudden outburst of anger. It is a thoughtful, determined response, like the building up of water behind a dam, then having it burst...
- The wrath of God is a response to willful disobedience

Q: (v18) Is the message of God's wrath suppressed today?

- In appearance much of today's preaching is focused on establishing a connection to a lost sinners felt needs, such as loneliness, uncontrollable desires, etc.
- It ignores key facets of Gods attributes and focus on the relationship with God (2 Tim 4:3)
- Paul does not preach on experiences, or happiness, or life experiences, he preaches a God centered message

Q: (v18) Who is God's wrath directed towards?

- Those who act and suppress the truth in all ungodliness (impiety – not giving proper respect for God); unrighteousness (injustice or wrong-doing in thought, word, or deed to character and law of God)

Q: (v18) What are some types of God's wrath?

- Eternal – eternal hell
- Eschatological – The Day of the Lord
- Cataclysmic – The flood, Sodom & Gomorrah, etc
- Consequential – Sowing and reaping
- Abandonment – removing restraint

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Q: (v20) How has God show us His attributes?

- Creation – God has made Himself visible in the physical world around us.
- Conscience – We are created with a mechanism that points us to moral truth.
- His word – The self-authenticating, accurate, historical message - the bible.

Q: (v20) What are some attributes God has illuminated?

- Eternal power – Humans intrinsically know that a powerful being created and sustains nature
- Godhead – The creator and sustainer must exist outside of His creation
- [Psalm 19](#)

Q: (v21) What is the expected outcome of this knowledge?

- Glorify God
- Be thankful

Q: (v20) What about those who say they “didn’t know?”

- No person is without excuse

Psalm 19:1-6

We Hear the Natural World Speaking

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.

There is no speech or language
where their voice is not heard.

Their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,
which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is hidden from its heat.



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Q: (v21-23) How do God-deniers think?

- Thoughts become futile
- Hearts become darkened
- Think they are knowledgeable, but are actually foolishly the opposite

Q: (v23) What is an example of this turning?

- Worshiping of idols, stand ins to the true god

Q: (v24) How does God respond to the foolish deniers?

- Gives them up to the lusts of their hearts
- Removes his restraints – uncleanness = decaying matter

Q: (v24) How do people react to the lack of God's restraints?

- They seek the lusts of their hearts
- Dishonor their bodies

First we overlook evil

Then we permit
evil

Then we
legalize evil

Then we
promote evil

Then we
celebrate evil

Then we
persecute those
who call it evil

Isiah 5

20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,
And prudent in their own sight!

22 Woe to men mighty at drinking wine,
Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink,

23 Who justify the wicked for a bribe,
And take away justice from the righteous man!

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Q: (v26) For what reason does God give up His restraining force?

- Denial of Him

Q: (v26-32) God's word clearly indicates a lack of proper understanding and knowledge of Him drives a response of self worship, indicated by behaviors counter to, and abominable to Him. What does our culture today indicate?

- Normalization of these behaviors.

Q: (v32) Does this passage indicate Christians can live in these sins?

- Absolutely not, sanctification is moving away sin

Q: (v32) What does the passage say about approving of these behaviors?

- Open discussion

Signs of the Last Days - 2 Tim 3:2

2 Tim 3

A Last Day Sign

1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:
2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money,
boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents,
unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers,
without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors,
headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of
God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And
from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who
creep into households and make captives of gullible women
loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always
learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the
truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do
these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved
concerning the faith; 9 but they will progress no further, for
their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.



Theme

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." – Rom 1:16-17

The Christian's Riches

1 Corinthians/ 2: Isa 64/65 - Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered the heart of man, The things which God has prepared for those who love Him

John 3:16 - Life that will never end

John 4:14 - A spring of spiritual water that will never dry up

John 6: 37, 39 - A gift that will never be lost

Romans 8: 39 - a love from which he can never be separated

Romans 11: 29 - a calling that will never be revoked

2 Timothy 2: 19 - a foundation that will never be destroyed

1 Peter 1: 4- 5 - An inheritance that will never diminish

Next Up

Romans 2





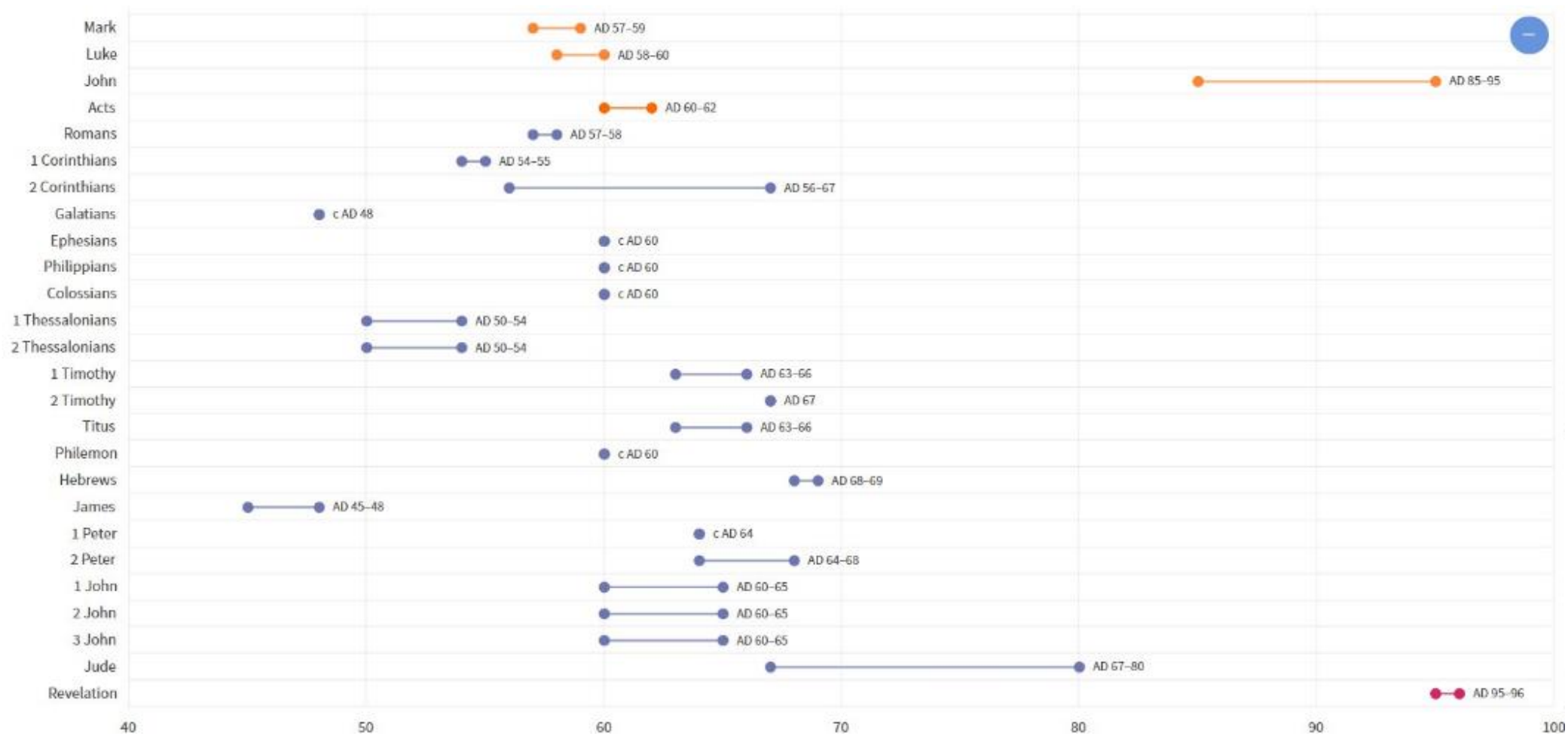
Co-writer – Apostle Paul

- Born as Saul in Tarsus (on the southern coast of modern-day Turkey). Likely borne about the same time as Jesus.
- Schooled as a Pharisee under the Jerusalem religious famous Gamaliel.
- Became a traveling missionary and preacher for the early church; renamed Paul.
- Worked as an artisan who made tents – maybe subcomponents
- Was imprisoned multiple times by the Roman authorities for his religious agitation.
- Believed to have co-written 6 letters to the churches.
- Died sometime between AD 62–64; Paul, believed to be in Rome.

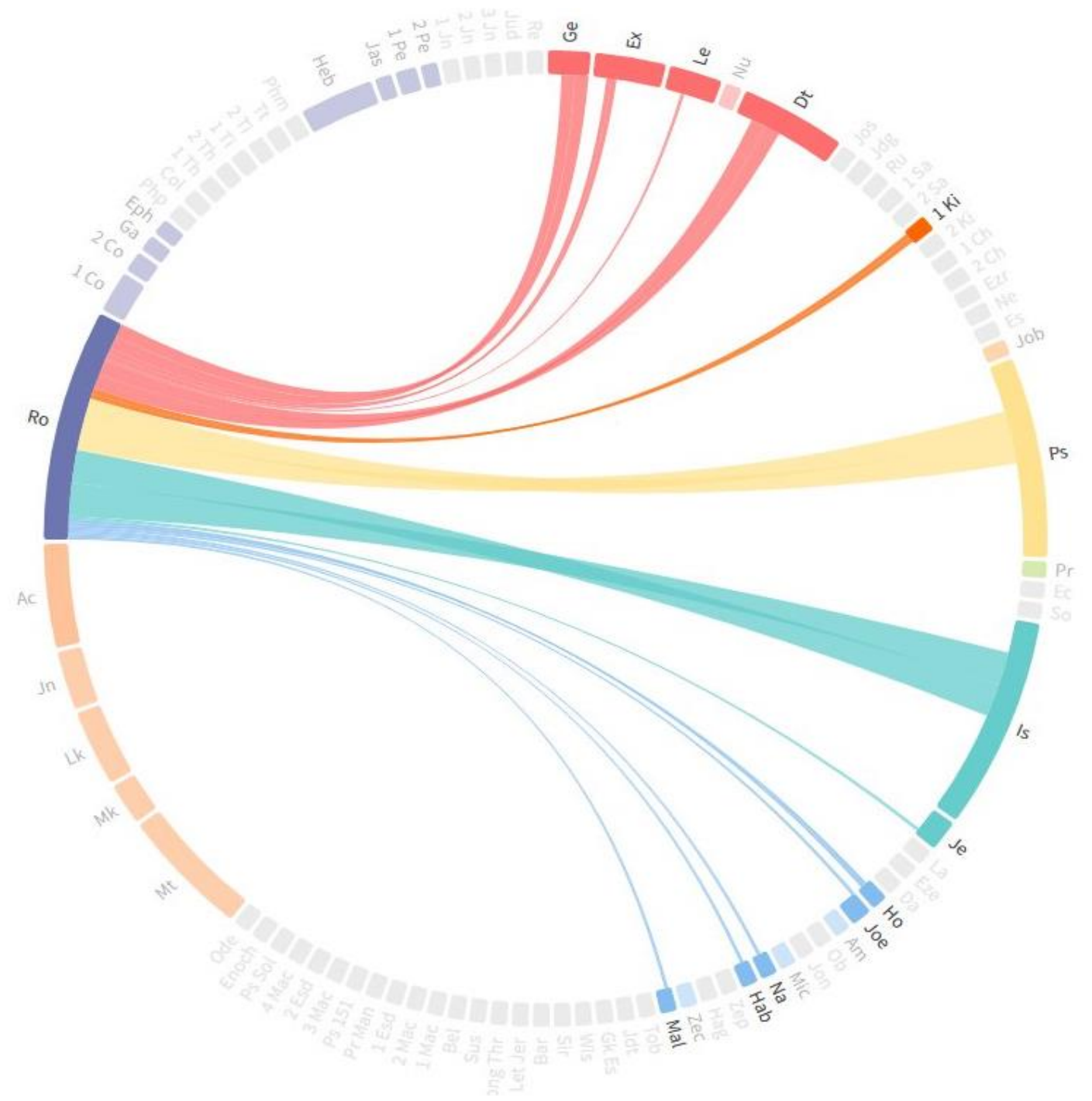


- **AD 33 Damascus – Direct conversion**
- **AD 33-36 Arabia – Receiving direct revelation from the Lord (Gal 1)**
- **3 missionary journeys to Asia minor**
- **AD 56 Wrote Romans on 3rd journey in Corinth**





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- Romans ties to other books of the bible



Paul's Testimony to Agrippa – Acts 26



1. Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself."

So Paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself: 2 "I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, 3 especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently.

4 "My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know. 5 They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. 6 And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers. 7 To this promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, hope to attain. For this hope's sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews. 8 Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?

9 "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. 11 And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

Paul's Testimony to Agrippa – Acts 26



12 "While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, 13 at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. 14 And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' 15 So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. 17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

19 "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance. 21 For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. 22 Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come— 23 that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

Paul's Testimony to Agrippa – Acts 26



24 Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!"

25 But he said, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason. 26 For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner. 27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe."

28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

29 And Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains."

30 When he had said these things, the king stood up, as well as the governor and Bernice and those who sat with them; 31 and when they had gone aside, they talked among themselves, saying, "This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains."

32 Then Agrippa said to Festus, "This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

The Depravity of Man – The Bad News

Self-will and self satisfaction reign in mans heart



This produces guilt, masked with even more self-seeking



This produces meaninglessness, as nothing truly satisfies



This produces hopelessness, we sense the supernatural promise of life after death and the consequences of it