

“Orge”: The Prosecution of God against Unbelievers, Rom 1:18; “Dikaiousune”: the Righteousness of God to Believers, Rom 1:17

**Romans 1:18** - For the wrath of God [ὄργη Θεοῦ, *orgē Theou*: “the wrath of God,” or “the prosecution of God”; *Ira Deum*: divine judgment] is being revealed from heaven [judicial decisions handed down by the Supreme Court of Heaven] against all ungodliness [ἀσέβεια, *asebeia*: the irreverent, i.e., heathens] and unrighteousness [ἀδικία, *adikia*: negative volition at gospel hearing means no imputation of divine righteousness] of those who suppress [κατέχω, *katechō*] the truth [ἀλήθεια, *alētheia*: the gospel] through unrighteousness.

- 31) This verse is introduced by verse 16 which informs us that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God for salvation for those who believe.
- 32) Verse 17 takes the principle of saving faith and expands it to the development of confidence built through spiritual growth:

**Romans 1:17** - For the righteousness [δικαιοσύνη, *dikaiousunē*] of God is revealed in the gospel from faith [ablative of source from ἐκ πίστεως, *ek pisteōs*: saving faith at gospel hearing] to faith [εἰς πίστιν, *eis pistin*: to faith, or doctrine: that which is believed emphasizing advance to spiritual maturity] just as it is written [in Habakkuk 2:4] “The righteous shall live by faith [the ablative of means from ἐκ πίστεως, *ek pisteōs*: by means of doctrine ].”

- 33) Verse 17 informs us that the righteousness of God is revealed only to those who believe and is amplified only to those who advance.
- 34) The one who places his faith in Christ is imputed the righteousness of God and is able to use the same faith he expressed at salvation to grow in grace all the way to spiritual maturity.
- 35) For those who reject the gospel of Christ for salvation it is not the righteousness of God that is revealed but rather His wrath, which we have expanded to mean prosecution.
- 36) “Prosecution” because “wrath” implies only the penalty clause for rejection of Christ, while prosecution includes the entire judicial process that results in divine punitive action.