

# The Spiral Down

ROMANS 1:18-2:5

Sunday, September 21, 2025 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

As humanity **SUPPRESSES** God's truth (1:18-21)

even though it's plain v. 18-20 Psalm 19:1-4; Acts 14:17; Job 12:7-10

they ignored God v. 21 Psalm 14:1-3; Isaiah 53:6; Acts 17:29-30

it spirals toward **RELATIONAL BROKENNESS**... (1:22-32)

a window 1:22-32

They exchanged...



Will we reflect the **SAME** brokenness, or repent and share the Gospel in **LOVE**? (2:1-5)

a mirror 2:1-5 Matthew 7:1-5; James 4:11-12; Luke 6:37

Which are you looking at most? 2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 John 1:8-9; 2 Peter 3:9



## Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

**What is this?** – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

### Welcome to Life Group!

#### Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, take some time to catch up with each other as you gather.

If it helps, here's a question to discuss and get you going. Have everyone answer:

*What's one thing you've learned about yourself recently—maybe a strength, a quirk, or something you'd like to improve—that reminds you we're all a work in progress?*

### Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

**Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.** For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

- Looking back at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time or anything that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
- This week we saw that Paul's list written in Romans 1 isn't just about how others need Jesus, but rather how we each need Jesus. We were challenged not to live in the same brokenness as our culture, but to share the Gospel in love—because we need Jesus just as much as they do! How do the following verses affirm our need for Jesus or show what that looks like and/or the positive result that follows?

**2 Timothy 1:7**

**John 14:6**

**Galatians 2:20**

**Romans 5:8**

At Wawasee, each of us is growing to increasingly live out these four roles as we follow Jesus together.



### Secure Son/Daughter

I live each day increasingly confident in being a loved child of God—resting in grace, not striving to achieve approval.



### Courageous Connector

I cultivate honest relationships that cross barriers and create belonging—even before belief.



### Ready Storyteller

I live each day with a sense of sentness, ready to reveal my story and God's story.



### Legacy Builder

Because of Jesus, I multiply what has been given to me by spiritually investing in others for kingdom impact.

## Word Find in the **Word**

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

### Word Find: Romans 1:18-23 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is **revealed** from **heaven** against all **ungodliness** and **unrighteousness** of men, who by their **unrighteousness** **suppress** the **truth**.

<sup>19</sup> For what can be **known** about God is **plain** to them, **because** God has **shown** it to them. <sup>20</sup> 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**. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be

wise, they **became** fools,

<sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory

of the immortal God for

images resembling mortal

man and birds and animals

and creeping **things**.

N A T T R I B U T E S G P V  
G I V E T E R N A L A N O M  
T F I C L E A R L Y M T W A  
H U N G O D L I N E S S E D  
I T V L D S Y G N A T U R E  
N I I T R U T H O N O R K V  
G L S C R E A T I O N E N E  
S E I N N A M E L Y K V E R  
U L B A L T H O U G H E W I  
T R L L E X C U S E E A O P  
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N E N P E R C E I V E D D I  
K N B E C A U S E K N O W N  
S U P P R E S S H O W N A F



life groups

## Study Guide *(continued)*

- Pastor Josh referred to **Romans 1:18-32** as the “spiral” of culture when people suppress God’s truth. The first step in that spiral was exchanging worshiping God for worshiping idols—something we’re all prone to. With that in mind, what modern idols (e.g., success, social media, comfort) are you most likely to prioritize over God?
- One pastor summarized the spiral above as 1) ignoring God, 2) redefining God, 3) setting aside sexual restraints, 4) setting aside relational restraints, down to 5) celebrating sin. Which of these steps do you see most prominently in our culture today?
  - As you consider these things, which of the following emotions surface most for you: **anger, fear, anxiety, or heartache**
  - Why? What might that reveal about your own heart?
- Read Ephesians 2:1-5** and compare it to **Romans 1:18-32**. Ephesians 2 describes humanity as “dead in transgressions” but emphasizes God’s mercy and grace. How do these passages together illustrate both the depth of human sin and the hope offered through God’s grace?
  - Discuss how this balance can encourage us to approach others with compassion rather than judgment, recognizing our own need for grace.

### Taking it Home

- It’s important to see this passage (Romans 1) not as “a window” to judge others, but as a “mirror” to see our own need for Jesus.
  - Why is it tempting to focus on others’ sins rather than our own?
  - How do are you seeing Christians today react to culture? Are they focusing more on judging others’ sins? Or are they *graciously* bringing truth?
  - Share one way you can use this passage as a mirror this week to reflect on your own heart and seek God’s grace for personal growth.

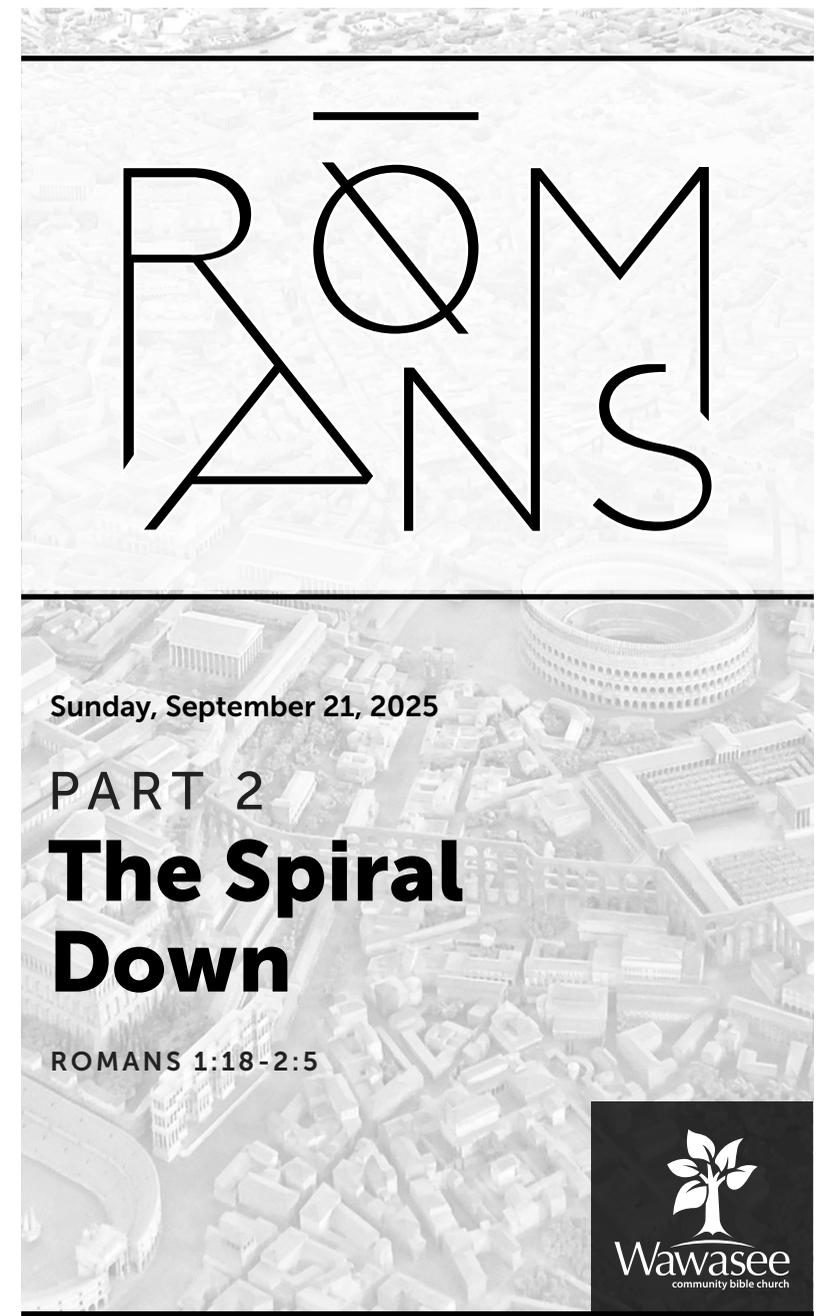
*As you close, take time to pray for each other.*



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### Wawasee Community Bible Church

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