

ROMANS

EXCHANGING MY WAY FOR GOD'S WAY

WEEK 2 | AMANDA BEGGS

KEY POINTS

- The gospel is not merely a story or system of beliefs but transforming power that changes how we see God, ourselves, and the world.
- Before we can experience the depth of gospel power, we must honestly recognize the depth of our problem, which is sin.
- The heart of sin is exchange. We trade God's glory, truth, and design for lesser substitutes.
- Suppressing the truth about God is an active and ongoing choice that leads to darkened minds and confused hearts.
- Idols are anything we turn to for the life, truth, and joy that only God can provide, and they ultimately enslave us.
- Common lies exchanged for God's truth include "I am king," "God is holding out on me," and "God has abandoned me," each creating its own form of bondage.
- God's design for marriage and sexuality is one man and one woman in a lifelong covenant, and any sexual activity outside that boundary constitutes an exchange of His design for personal desire.
- No one stands outside the problem of sin. The list in Romans 1 includes gossip, pride, and boasting alongside more obvious transgressions.
- God's wrath is expressed as giving people over to the very desires that will enslave them.
- The gospel reverses every exchange sin produces: Christ's righteousness for our shame, new life for the old self, the Spirit's power for the flesh's dominion, and future glory for present suffering.
- Seeing the depth of our sin magnifies the depth of our salvation and produces genuine humility and gratitude.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Romans 1:18-32

Romans 1:16-17

Romans 8

Proverbs 14:12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Romans 1 describes sin as an act of exchange rather than just bad behavior. What lesser thing have you been treating as though it carries the weight and worth that only God can provide?
2. There are several sources people turn to for truth: feelings, comparison, ideology, individualism. Which of these voices has the loudest influence in your life, and how has listening to it shaped your decisions?
3. A.W. Tozer is quoted as saying that what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. How does your day-to-day view of God differ from what you intellectually believe about Him, and what does that gap reveal?
4. Romans 1 presents three specific lies people exchange for truth about God: that I am king, that God is holding out on me, and that God has abandoned me. Which of these lies has the tightest hold on your heart, and what trap has it led you into?
5. The [Romans Prayer](#) asks God to make the gospel blaze so brightly that blind eyes are opened and hard hearts are softened. What would it look like in your daily life to actively pray that prayer not just for others but for yourself?

***TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION,** check out the additional Week Two Discussion Guide under Small Group Materials in the North Way app under Romans.