

In last January apparently ~~trivial~~ ^{trivial} ~~trivial~~ circumstances have frequently issued in most momentous consequences. There is a young lady, at least I'll say for the sake of argument that she was young, she would pay a visit to a distant city and she was particularly anxious to get into association with the people in that city that were like minded with herself and with her friends. She happened to know a gentleman who had acquaintances in that city and so she went to him and said, "I would be greatly obliged to you if you could give me a letter of introduction to the people in this city. I am going there and I'm a total stranger and you remember you stayed with me some little time ago and I was of some assistance to you and perhaps it wouldn't be too much to ask if you would give me a letter of introduction."

This gentleman, being a thorough gentleman, said, "I would be delighted, most happy to do so." Then he thought, "Well now, it is a very important place that she is going to and I might use the opportunity to set out in detail exactly what I think." Now the lady was Phoebe and the result was the Epistle to the Romans. If you turn to the end of the Epistle to the Romans if you haven't done, you will find, "I commend unto you Phoebe."

God works in strange ways. This apparently trivial circumstance of a young woman desiring happy fellowship with like-minded people in a great city resulted in the Epistle to the Romans. Now, of course, I haven't been here at the opening lectures. I only hope that I will keep myself free of heresy, but when you ~~read~~ ^{read} the Epistle ~~of~~ to the Romans, you find that Paul sets out in very marked detail the system which governed his theology. The opening of the Romans are concerned with two great themes, the wrath of God and the righteousness of God. After the introduction St. Paul sets himself to demonstrate that the whole world is under sin and he does so with singular force in the second and third chapters of the Epistle to the Romans. The wrath of God, he says, is revealed from heaven against all unrighteousness of men who, literally it should be rendered, hold down the truth in unrighteousness. Then he surveys the situation