

4/11/9

Start lesson 11

Vv. 18, 21. The results of suppressing the truth about God that is known by all men.

Vain imaginations and a foolish darkened heart. Vain is defined as **stupid, foolish, senseless...**

V. 21, the abonnement to vile affections starts with simple failures:

Suppression of the inborn knowledge of God, so they

1. Fail to give Glory to God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

2. Fail to give thanks to God. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

They willfully rejected what natural knowledge of God they have been given. Rejecting God, they must turn to their own vain imaginations. Rejecting the light, they grope around in the darkness. As they act according to their own depravity, their depravity deepens.

Ps 136:1 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. 2 O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever. 3 O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Imaginations, or reasonings. Turning from God, they cannot connect cause and effect. They imagine what the effect of their actions should be. Then when their imagined results fail, they are unable to make the cause and effect connection.

Ecclesiastes 7:29 *Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.*

Proverbs 12:15 *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.*

Proverbs 26:12 *Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.*

Isaiah 5:21 *Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*

“The thoughts of the heathen concerning God were perverted and corrupt thoughts. The whole clause therefore means, that the heathen, in refusing to recognize the true God, entertained foolish and wicked thoughts of the Divine Being; that is, they sank into the folly and sin of idolatry. And their foolish heart was darkened; they lost the light of divine knowledge; *αουνοτος*, destitute of *συνεσις* understanding, insight into the nature of divine things. The

consequence of this want of divine knowledge was darkness.” (C. Hodge)

V. 21, Failing to recognize the true God, they entertain foolish and wicked thoughts. They become blind fools, wandering in the darkness, following their foolish imaginations.

Those who reject God’s light, become victims of the darkness.

Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

They are destroyed for lack of knowledge, but why do they lack knowledge?

V. 18, they have willfully rejected the knowledge of God, both the inborn and the revealed knowledge.

Darkened... Their natural reason has departed from them. Those who follow Christ are amazed at the stupidity of those who are supposed to be wise, v. 22.

No one will be able to plead ignorance in that day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, **2:16** *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

Throughout Scripture, God argues from the saved to the unsaved. That is, he points out the judgment that awaits his people for their indifference and paganism, and then he points out how much worse will it be for those outside of his people. We will not look at it, but Hebrews 12 and Psalms 73 are good examples.

As we observe what is around us, we are reminded that a society is never destroyed for the wickedness of the heathen; it is always destroyed because of the worldliness of God's people. God's people refusing or failing to glorify God as God in every thought, word and deed. We are an unthankful nation and people. We are seeing the results of v. 21 taking place, as our nation and churches sink deeper and deeper into extreme vileness Paul describes here in Romans 1.

V. 21, when man continually push down or push aside the knowledge of God, God gives them up to their lawless mind and reprobate desires. The result is a completely lawless body. As we will see in v. 26, sodomy wars against God’s very basic order of society, the family.

The end result is that God simply allows man's vain thought to control him, as God withdraws his restraining hand and man rushes headlong to his own destruction.

Hosea 13:9 *O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.*

Deuteronomy 28:45 *Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee,*

and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:

Psalms 47:4 *He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah.*

We do not get to choose what good or bad results we would like to have as we turn from God. God makes that determination.

Our natural tenancy is to blame God for the results of our sins. But Paul tells us in chapter 2 that the mercy of God holds back the results of sin, giving men a chance to repent and change. In the end, however, if man remains hardened in his sin, the natural results will come to pass, as defined in 1:24-28.

We see throughout Scripture that God does not give up on man until man gives up on God.

V. 25, the truth of God has been subtly changed into a lie for many reasons. It has taken place so slowly that the change has been unnoticed by the vast majority of Christians.

As I study the KJV, I have seen that other translations since have many subtle changes, and many not so subtle. Many changes directly alter the meaning of a passage.

More than a few bible scholars have attributed that subtle change of truth for lies to the various translations of scripture

If anyone should know about glorifying God as God and the judgment of God against all unrighteousness, his people should. It is God's people who must get back to glorifying him as God before we can expect any kind of return of society to godliness.

The fallen nature is shown in Abraham. He was born only 292 years after the flood. Noah and Abraham were alive together for 58 years, Shem lived for 502 years after the flood. The destruction of Sodom happened 400 years after the flood or 102 years before Shem died.

In fact, Shem lived for 150 years after Abraham was born and for 30 years after Jacob was given Rebekah for a wife.

All of that to say this. Shem lived through the wrath of God as revealed from heaven in the flood. Though Shem was still alive as a living testimony of God's wrath from heaven, Sodom became so corrupt it had to be destroyed.

Belief in and fear of God had been lost, so God called Abraham to establish a new kingdom, a kingdom of faith which would lead to Christ, and inclusion of all who had the faith of Abraham.

So, we can see from Romans 1 that though men know God, they refuse to glorify him as God, and the result is all manner of wickedness and uncleanness to where everything they do is

against nature, v. 28.

Fallen man desires a god who will let him be his own god, and able to determine for himself what is good and evil.

Paul deals with that fallen desire very thoroughly in Romans.

V. 25, worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator,

Man wants a God who:

- * will allow him to sail to heaven on a smooth sea and following whichever wind blows the hardest.
- * Will allow him to go to heaven without no real commitment on man's part.
- * Who does not demand a clean holy life.
- * Who will allow man to “follow his heart.”

Worshiped and served the creature... That is, not only worshiped the works of their own hands, but worshiped himself as his own god.

V. 26, for this cause. Man willingly changes the truth of God into a lie. The result is that God removes the restraints, and lets man destroy himself.

Notice the order here.

1.) For even their women... The first sign is that women turn their backs on men.

The women are normally the last to be affected by moral decay, and when we see corruption among women, we know that virtue is lost.

I am not that old, but I am shocked to see the downward slide of women just in my few days on earth.

Women used to take pride in their modesty. Now it's just the opposite. They take pride in their nakedness as they reveal as much skin as possible, and still keep vital parts covered. And that includes professed Christian women.

We were told by a young lady in the Moorefield High School of a group of girls who were “by-curious.”

It is not uncommon to hear of female teachers having intimate affairs with their students.

The immorality on college campuses is astounding. I am always shocked to see beautiful young women given over to complete abandonment to evil of all kinds.

Of course, the government education establishment removed God and the commandments years ago. Starting in Romans 1:18, we are told of the natural results of suppressing God from public view. So, we should not be suppressed when vv. 22-32 take place.

2) V. 27, *likewise also the men...*

The next step is men with men. Women are concerned with women. Men are concerned with men. Women lusting after women. Men lusting after men. It is total revolt against God's order.

Vv. 26, 27, the results of holding down the knowledge of God results in the vilest of sin, as women seek to be men, and men seek to be women. And the state that hates God not only approves this wickedness, but seeks to promote it.

The state has willingly rejected God, so the results, vv. 21-32 are to be expected.

V. 27 receiving in themselves---

These who God has allowed to go into the lust that they wanted to now receive in themselves the recompense of their error. The payment comes due: Distress, sickness, terrible disease.

AIDS is often attached to this verse. Obviously, the sodomites loudly deny the attachment.

Romans 1:28, *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

Vv. 18, 21 & 28. This is the third time they push God aside. Then God gives them up to their debased mind, or to their perverted way of thinking, which naturally results in vv. 29-31.

The public schools, with Christian support, have continually refused to retain God in their knowledge, and then they and the parents stand amazed at the that take place in their domains. They have become so perverted in their thinking, that they cannot understand what is causing the evils in their various anti-God systems such as in education and in civil and individual governments.

V. 28, **reprobate** – that is, "that which does not prove itself such as it ought." The word is also translated as castaway, and rejected, both by God.

Reprobate refers to anyone in a school room or in life who cannot pass the test. It means a failure, and goes as far to pass itself off as a success, or good.

A good example is the sodomites, both female and male. They reject the truth of God that is built in them, and now consider what they are doing as good, and demand that everyone else also accept them as good.

Men, both saved and unsaved and for whatever reason, desert God in order to be their own god, able to determine for themselves what is right and wrong. We should say, they desert God for the god of this world, money. God then deserts them, leaving them to reap what they have sown.

Isaiah 5:25 *Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.*

Isaiah 9:17 *Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.*

His wrath is not appeased.

Titus 1:16 *They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*

They profess Christ, but their actions fail the test.

1 Corinthians 9:27 *But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. (Or reprobate.)*

In other words, God will give up even his people who insist on worshiping the creature rather than the Creator.

Lawlessness will have the same results whether in the saved or unsaved.

V. 28 restates 1:18 & 21:

V. 28, they did not like to retain the knowledge of God which was born in them.

Therefore, God gave them over, or he turned them loose to do whatever was in their vile imaginations.

The result is that they *do those things which are not convenient...*

Man is given over to a reprobate mind because he suppresses the knowledge of God.

Some implications of his vain imagination at work:

First, he thinks he can improve on God's creation with GMO products.

Second, he thinks he can improve on God's design for animals or human babies.

Third, he thinks he can control the weather.

Fourth, he thinks he can reinvent the family

Fifth, he thinks he can reverse the rolls of men and women in society:

Deuteronomy 22:5 *The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.*

Psalms 14:1 « *To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.* » *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.* **Psalms 53:1**

Nothing is outside of the vain imagination of those who suppress the knowledge of God.

Vv. 23, 24, the natural man will abandon the glory of the incorruptible God and replace him with a god more like himself; one who will all them to pursue their own lusts.

Even Christians have changed the Lord God Almighty into an image made like to himself.

V. 29-31 gives a list of the natural results of abandoning God.

Unrighteousness : injustice, lawlessness. All that follows falls under unrighteousness.

Fornication : sexual sins of all kinds including sodomy and bestiality. It includes worship of idols.

Wickedness, depravity, iniquity, wickedness, malice, evil purposes and desires

Covetousness, greedy desire to have more.

Maliciousness, malice, ill-will, desire to injure. Not ashamed to break laws.

full of envy, a feeling of grudging admiration and desire to have something that is possessed by another.

Murder, obviously can be hatred.

Debate, strife over words

Deceit, guile and craft.

Malignity, depravity of heart and life

whisperers, secret slander

Backbiters, defamer, speaking evil.

haters of God

despiteful, one who, uplifted with pride, either heaps insulting language upon others or does them some shameful act of wrong

proud, with an overweening estimate of one's means or merits, despising others or even treating them with contempt, haughtys

boasters, empty pretenders

inventors of evil things, evil in feelings, actions, thinking. Destructive and injurious

disobedient to parents, could be expanded to disobedient to authority

Without understanding, stupid, foolish

covenantbreakers, faithless. The days of a handshake are gone, and not even contracts will

hold one to his word.

without natural affection, inhuman, *e.g.* abortionists

implacable (trucebreakers) , unwilling to enter into mutual agreements, covenants

unmerciful

V. 32, sums up vv. 18 and 28. They know what is right, but continue in their vanity.

Many things are excused under "alternative lifestyle", and we are told over and over that even Christians are to accept these evil lifestyles.

However, God is certainly judgmental, and God does not condone any kind of lifestyle than the one he laid out in his word. He is not such a one as we. The wicked are receiving or will receive their just reward in themselves.

Israel could not blame God for allowing, even sending, Nebuchadnezzar to come against her, destroy Jerusalem, and carry captive those he did not kill—The same thing with Rome:

Jeremiah 2:17 *Hast thou not procured this unto thyself, in that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, when he led thee by the way? 19 Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.*

Hosea 13:9 *O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.*

There is no one to blame today for the terrible mess we are in but “My people which are called by my name” who have turned from God.

Vv. 29-31. They know the judgment of God against those things, because the basic knowledge of God is built into every man. However, though knowing his judgment, they continue on in their evil.

V. 32 goes further. Those who have turned from God not only do things worthy of death, but they fail to condemn those who are doing those things.

Psalms 50:16 *But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? 17 Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee. 18 When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers. 19 Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit.*

In other words, not speaking out against whatever evil we might see makes us partaker of the evil deed.

This is a very serious incitement against Christian parents who send their children to the government education system.

Romans 1:32 clearly tells us that those who do these things, including sending their children to government schools, know that God condemns these things, but they do not care. Rather, they live their lives as they please, and find others who will agree with them, and who live the same way.

Honoring and serving the creature more than the Creator receive in themselves the just rewards of their error.

God made man to serve him with their lives, bodies and children. When man obeys God, he will experience joy and happiness. But when man refuses to serve God and keep his commandments, then God gives him over to vile affections to do those things that are against nature itself.

Even in what were former Christian countries, the truth of God has been changed into a lie. And when one speaks out for righteousness, he faces persecution or even prosecution.

V. 28. Those who are unthankful, vain and foolish continue to push God aside.

Many of us were like the ones described in vv. 29-31, but then Christ changed all of that.

1 Corinthians 6:11 *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

At the time, there may have been a certain amount of pleasure in those activities, but then the Spirit of God revealed differently.

Because God gave them up, and took his restraint off of them does not release man from his responsibility, for they shall stand before God:

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

That time before the judgment seat of Christ holds no fear for those who have been obedient, and washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit of God.

Christ took our eternal death, not our physical death. He suffered and died to free us from the present power of sin over us.