

## “The Great Sin of Neglecting God’s Knowledge!”

Romans 1:18-32

This morning we learned Jesus became a human being in order to declare God to us, to exegete God! Now, the knowledge of God, theology, the study of God was once called the Queen of the Sciences! Today, fools, atheists tell us theology is not “science” at all.

Usually, this is because of a presupposition of anti-supernaturalism, which sadly in our current world rules the day ...

Even in churches, theology is too often neglected or even fought against, especially when you are talking about accurate, Bible-based, systematic theology.

I. *Knowing God is eternal life, what is not knowing God? What is rejecting the knowledge of God?*

**<sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3 (NKJV)**

1. *If you reject the knowledge of God, you are inviting God’s wrath upon yourself –*

**<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Romans 1:18–23 (NKJV)**

*Note:*

A. *God’s wrath is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness (sins directly against God) and unrighteousness (sins committed against or with men) ... - :18*

B. *These people suppress truth (are liars and believe lies) - :18*

C. *The knowledge of God is obvious from His creation, even His eternal power and Godhead, living those who neglect, ignore or reject this knowledge, without excuse - :19-20*

D. *These who once knew God - :21, became fools :22, they distorted God’s image - :23*

2. *Note what is WRONG with this neglect or rejection –*

A. *They don’t glorify God - :21*

B. *They are not thankful to God - :21*

- C. They become “futile” in their thoughts (thinking) *ἐματαιώθησαν ayemataiothysan* -- basically empty headed, brainless, numbskulls ... Their empty headed thinking is opposite of the fulness of Jesus Christ and His teaching – **John 1:14-18**
- D. They claim “wisdom” – but are fools **μωραίνομαι**<sup>a</sup>: (derivative of μωρός<sup>a</sup> ‘unwise, foolish,’ the Greek word for morons - :22
- E. They distort the image of God - :23

## II. What God does to such people who reject His Knowledge / Theology –

<sup>24</sup> Therefore **God also gave them up** to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

<sup>26</sup> **For this reason God gave them up to vile passions.** For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. <sup>27</sup> Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

<sup>28</sup> **And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind,** to do those things which are not fitting; <sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, <sup>30</sup> backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup> who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. Romans 1:24–32 (NKJV)

*Three times we are told, God gives them up! This is the judgment; God gives them up to their own ways –*

1. *To uncleanness, lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies and worship and service of the creature rather than the Creator - :24-25*
2. *Vile passions:*
  - A. *Women gave up natural use - :26 No interested in child-bearing, feminism, maybe lesbianism ...*
  - B. *Men burned in lust for one-another - :27 homosexuality*
3. *A debased mind - **ἀδόκιμος, adokimos** corrupt, not working, disqualified; leading to every kind of sin, and not the sins only, but the approval of those who practice them - :28-32*
4. *Note, these sins :28-32 are not in this passage what God is judging; no, they are not! What God is judging is the rejection of Theology, the rejection of the Knowledge of God. These sins are the symptoms of the JUDGMENT!*

*When people are living for lusts, when feminism and homosexuality rule the day, when every kind of sin is more and more practiced and even celebrated; this means God has already judged someone! Or judged a society!*

*Oh, what a fearful thing to be given up to a debased mind?*

*What is being judged is: our not glorifying God, our not thanking God, our not acknowledging and worshipping Him, our not ascribing Him the worth He deserves with time, with seeking, with prayer, with priority ...*

*Do you fear alzheimer's disease? Fear a debased mind more! It is a mindset that draws a person to Hell –*

<sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.* <sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded *is death*, but to be spiritually minded *is life and peace.* <sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind *is enmity against God*; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:5–8 (NKJV)

### *III. How might we avoid the judgment of a debased mind?*

#### *1. Avoid, like the plague, ungodly counsel, teaching –*

<sup>1</sup> **Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; Psalm 1:1 (NKJV)**

#### *2. Major in God's Word, delight in God's Word, give the study of God your time, your effort –*

<sup>2</sup> **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. Psalm 1:2 (NKJV)**

#### *3. Seek to know God –*

<sup>23</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; <sup>24</sup> But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. Jeremiah 9:23–24 (NKJV)

#### *4. Realize even just acknowledging the basics about God makes a huge difference in a sin filled world -*

##### *A. God is our Creator -*

<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

##### *B. As our Creator He had a purpose and design in mind when He made us –*

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:26–28 (NKJV)

- *God created us in His image, so we are highly privileged - :26*
- *God gave us dominion over the other creatures in this world, therefore, we have great responsibility - :26*
- *Our responsibility means our mistakes go beyond us, hurting creatures under us*
- *Our responsibility is to God, not to these creatures under us*
- *God created us male and female, on purpose, enabling us to “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it :28*

*The way we are created, male and female, enables reproduction, being fruitful and multiplying! The current confusion about gender, to the point a Supreme Court nominee could not define what a woman is; where girls are forced to take showers, dress in locker rooms with biological males – even according to an executive order from our President, shows we as a nation, at least a large part of us, have been given up to a debased mind!*



*In 2014, a fad among teenagers was the fire challenge. Young people would douse themselves in flammable liquid and videotape lighting themselves on fire. You can still see this on the internet (article / video from 2018) ... even my cat Sweetie, though curious about the fire, was smart enough not to get her paws in it. The fact that people do such things, or any of the sins listed in Romans 1, shows we have been judged, given a debased mind! Don't listen to people who do such things, even when they claim – science!*

*Arnold A. Brevick*