

## Neither Were They Thankful— 08/9/20

**TEXT- Rom 1:18-22** *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men,*

**INTRO** – It is sad to see the tragic results of this decline. Evolutionists want us to believe that humans have “evolved” from primitive, ignorant, beast-like forms into the marvelous creature they are today. Paul says just the opposite: man began the highest of God’s creatures, but he made himself into a beast!

**Note the three judgments of God:**

- **God gave them up to uncleanness and idolatry,** Rom 1:24-25.
- **God gave them over to vile passions,** Rom 1:26-27.
- **God gave them over to a reprobate mind,** Rom 1:28.

**God gave them up!** This is the revelation of the wrath of God **Rom 1:18.** **Psa 81:11-12** *But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. 12 So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.*

**Rom 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;*

**The sins listed are vile,** yet they are practiced today around the world with the approval of society. People know that sin will be judged, yet they take pleasure in it anyway. Were it not for the Gospel of Christ, we would be in this slavery to sin ourselves. “*Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift*” **2 Co 9:15**

Thus, faith has its primary sources within us **Rom 1:19**; but it becomes *an intelligible and articulate conviction* only through what we observe around us (“by the things which are made,” **Rom 1:20**. And thus are the inner and the outer revelation of God the complement of each other, making up between them one universal and immovable conviction *that God is*.

God is known “by means of” the material universe which he has formed.

**But became vain** - To “become vain,” with us, means to be self-conceited. They became foolish, frivolous in their thoughts.

They acted foolishly; in useless and frivolous questions, the effect of which was to lead the mind further and further from the truth respecting God.

**Imaginations** - This word means properly “thoughts,” then “reasonings,” and also “disputations” or “speculations.” It implies that they were unwilling to honor God, and they began those speculations which resulted in all their vain and foolish opinions about idols, and the various rites of idolatrous worship. Many of the speculations of the ancients were among the most vain and senseless which the mind can conceive.

**The first section of the letter discusses sin** (1:18-3:20).

In these closing verses of **Rom 1:1-32**, Paul explains how the Gentiles got into the awful darkness that engulfs them and how God’s wrath was revealed against them. Note the steps downward:

### **A. They knew God Rom 1:18-20**

God had given them a twofold revelation of Himself “in them” (conscience) and “unto them” (creation), **Rom 1:19**.

Man did not begin with ignorance and gradually work his way up to intelligence; he began with a revelation of the power and wisdom of God and turned his back on it. God had revealed Himself from the very time of creation, so that people who have never heard the Gospel are still without excuse. **How God judges such people is taken up in Rom 2:1-29.**

### **B. They glorified Him not as God Rom 1:21-23**

**Vain thinking and foolish reasoning turned men from the truth to lies.**

We see indifference leading to ingratitude, resulting in ignorance.

People today bow before the Greek and Roman philosophers and honor their words above the Word of God; but Paul calls all of these philosophies “empty imaginations” and “times of ignorance” **Acts 17:30** The next step was idolatry, honoring the creature (including man) rather than the Creator.

### **C. They changed the truth of God Rom 1:24-25**

**This word “changed” could read “exchanged.”**

People replaced God’s truth with Satan’s lie! What is Satan’s lie?

- Worshiping the creature and not the Creator;
- Worshiping man instead of God; worshiping things instead of Christ. Satan tempted Christ to do this **Mat 4:8-11**. In **Rom 1:18**, the Gentiles “held down the truth,” and now they “exchange the truth” for a lie!
- The truth believed and obeyed sets us free John 8:31-32;
- The truth rejected and disobeyed makes us slaves.

### **D. They rejected the knowledge of God Rom 1:26-32**

These people had begun with a clear knowledge of God (**Rom 1:19**, **Rom 1:21**) and His judgment against sin (**Rom 1:32**); but now they reached the lowest level of their downward fall: they did not even want to have knowledge of God!

**CONCL - Psa 14:1-4** *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. 2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. 3 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.*