

ROMANS: One Verse at a Time

Romans 1:21-23

God's Wrath on Unrighteousness

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ 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,** ²¹ **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.** ²² **Professing to be wise, they became fools,** ²³ **and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.**

²¹ because, although they knew God,
they did not glorify *Him* as God,

The wrath of God comes upon those men and women who have refused to respond to the _____ they have been given and who are, therefore, without _____. Now Paul describes the results of suppressing the truth in the lives of the ungodly. For **although they knew God** (through the revelation of creation), they rejected Him in _____ ways.

First, **they did not glorify Him as God.** The glory of God is the revelation of His _____ and Person. It is therefore the sum total of all that He has shown us concerning Himself in the Scriptures. When we glorify the Lord, we are acknowledging His endless _____ and extolling His majesty and _____. Man was created to glorify God.

1 Chronicles 16:23-29 Sing to the LORD, all the earth;
Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

²⁴ Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. ²⁵ For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised; He *is* also to be feared above all gods.

²⁶ For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols, But the LORD made the heavens. ²⁷ Honor and majesty *are* before Him; Strength and gladness are in His place.

²⁸ Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength. ²⁹ Give to the LORD the glory *due* His name; ...

Many places in Scripture we are told by way of both commandment and _____ that we are to glorify the Lord. So often is this principle taught that many Bible students have summarized this teaching by saying, "The _____ end of man is to glorify God." When a man or a woman fail to glorify God, nothing else matters. They are without excuse.

nor were thankful,

The second way that lost men's rejection of God is demonstrated is in their _____. Unbelief is magnified by ingratitude. As the Scripture says in James 1:17 _____ good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

But since those who have rejected His revelation of Himself and have refused to seek Him do not even believe He exists, they certainly do not _____ Him for all of His blessings. We believers should be warned that the failure to glorify God and failure to thank God are listed as evidences of _____ and rejection of God in the lives of the lost. Therefore we should be exceedingly careful not to let these two faithless attitudes find a home in our own _____.

but became futile in their thoughts,

The rejection of the witness of the things that have been made by God causes men to **became futile in their thoughts**, or literally their reasoning became empty. In other words, when you do not get the _____ right, you do not get anything else right. No wonder God began His Word, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." And God does not cease with this general description. He then offers _____ of how He went about creating the universe, telling us what He did, the _____ in which He did it, and the time frame for each creative act.

Those who want to reject the revelation but maintain a _____ will say, "The Bible tells us the Who of creation, but not the when and the how." They themselves are the evidence of **futile thoughts**, _____ reasoning. Of course it does, right there in Genesis 1 and 2, the very beginning of the Bible. The problem is not that the Scripture does not explain the when and how; the problem is that they do not _____ it! And after they try to explain away the clear meaning of Genesis 1 and 2, then they have to explain away countless other passages of the _____ in God's Holy Word. How much better to say with the Psalmist ... The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making _____ the simple; (Psalm 19:7b)

This is why teaching the biblical doctrine of _____ is of such importance. When our children and young people are not taught this truth it leads to empty reasoning and vain _____. The consequence is that they often then reject the _____ and ultimately God.

and their foolish hearts were darkened.

The consequence of unbiblical thinking is a sinful _____. **And their foolish hearts were darkened.** Belief and behavior are inseparably linked. One cannot be void of _____ and live faithfully. One cannot reject God's truth and live in a godly manner. Spiritual darkness and _____ share an unbreakable bond.

²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Those who are under the wrath of God because they have rejected God's revelation of Himself are _____ intellectually and morally, but they will not admit it, for they do not know it. **Professing to be wise, they became fools**, they often put on an air of intellectualism and _____, but they do the most foolish things. They refuse to believe in an eternal God so they choose to believe that _____ itself is eternal. When mathematical probability clearly demonstrates that life could not have come from non-living chemicals, no matter how large or _____ the universe, they theorize that the universe is only one of many, many universes in a multi-verse.

When the string theory used to hypothesize about multiple universes proves to be disconnected from the reality of _____ we observe in the one universe we actually know exists, then other exotic theories are proposed such as life on earth being started by _____. This proposal does nothing to answer the question "Where did life come from?" but only serves as to change the _____ of the very first life in the universe. Wherever one believes life started, the question is still "_____ started it and _____?" Futile thoughts lead to _____ which lead to foolish actions.

²³ and **changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image**

And the most foolish action of all is for lost men and women to **change the glory of the incorruptible God into an image**. Because lost man's reasoning is tainted and his heart is dark, he even misunderstands the _____ of religion itself. The typical explanation of the development of religions today is that religion began with _____ theism, the worship of many gods and progressively evolved to _____ theism, the worship of one God. Scripture reveals that the opposite is true. Man began worshipping the _____ True God Who created the universe and revealed Himself as YHWH. Adam and Eve (_____ generation of people) worshipped the One God. Abel (_____ generation) worshipped the One True God. In the _____ generation, the Bible says men called on the name of the Lord. Early man did not worship multiple gods or _____. They worshipped God alone. That does not mean they were not sinners. There are a multitude of sins in addition to idolatry. Doubtless there were many that ceased to believe in God, who said there is no God; but there is no _____ that they believed in many gods. Actually, the first mention of idols in the Scripture were the household idols of _____. This time period is many years after the _____ and the dispersal of the people to form _____ according to language following the sin of the Tower of Babel.

made like corruptible
man—

Ancient history confirms the biblical record that man's religion devolved from monotheism to polytheism, not the other way around. The Greek historian Herodotus said that the earliest _____ did not have pagan temples or idols. Likewise the Roman scholar Varro says the Romans had no animal or human images of god for the first _____ years of the empire. The Christian historian Eusebius said plainly, "The _____ peoples had no idols."

But men who knew God but rejected Him as God, refusing His revelation through creation, because of their futile thinking and darkened hearts, sought to replace the revelation of the One True God with an image made of wood or stone.

The first desire of man was to replace God with an image of _____ himself. Rather than give God the glory due only unto Him, man attempts to _____ himself.

Ultimately idolatry is both _____-worship and _____ worship. It is the worship of self because the worshipper decides who he wants to worship. He does not want to worship God as He really is in holiness and perfection. He wants a god whose demands are more to his _____. Therefore the pagan gods Baal and Asherah, Canaanite _____ gods, were popular with the people who used their worship as an excuse for licentiousness, fornication, and _____ – all in honor and with the approval of their "gods."

and birds and
four-footed animals
and
creeping things.

Paul tells the Corinthians that idolatry is also demon worship. Demons use the worship of idols to enhance man's rebellion. Therefore we should not be surprised when there are _____ manifestations associated with an idol such as tears or blood coming from stone or wood. The idols foolish man will substitute in the place of the incorruptible God are without limit. They consist of images of **birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.**

Correctly the prophet ridiculed the idol maker in Isaiah 44:14, 19-20 He cuts down cedars for himself, And takes the cypress and the oak; ...

¹⁹ And no one considers in his heart, Nor is there knowledge nor understanding to say, "I have burned half of it in the fire, Yes, I have also baked bread on its coals; I have roasted meat and eaten *it*; And shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?"

²⁰ He feeds on ashes; A deceived heart has turned him aside; And he cannot deliver his soul, Nor say, "Is there not a lie in my right hand?"
