

## INTRODUCTION

1. Will you learn about things that morally repulse you? The "god" you serve determines how you will use your capabilities & spend your energies. Impact of the Fall on men's minds.

2. Review: men given revelation: Rm 1:18-20. 1] wrath: objective & subjective; 2] creation: objective & subjective. God's judicial abandonment. all men have some knowledge of God & of good.

## 1st: Men Exchange Truth for [the] Lie - God for Idols

1. R1:25 = summary indictment: exchange God for a creaturely idol.

2. Process is described - v21-23 Refuse to worship: *honor & thanks*. Problem is not intellectual, but theological. Results: mind & heart affected. Not honoring God as God detrimentally affects men, image of God.

i. *bec/futile*: passive verb - fruitless: *in their speculations*: reasoning. Not illogical, but reasoning that ends w/o knowledge of God.

ii. *foolish heart was darkened* = immoral [*fool* of Ps 14:1; 10:4; *heart => conscience*: *darkened* - passive; w/o moral light, blind to revelation

a. Eph 4:17-19 - unregenerated: dark, dead, hard, calloused: rlt to moral behavior.

b. Xn's mind is more moral than intelligent - v20-24. Xn's mind is result of repentance - learn to think morally: righteous, holy, true.

iii. R1:22 - pride is at root of idolatry: pride is self-deceptive - view self as wise, but is a fool - w/o fear of God who is Creator.

3. R1:25 this verse deserves a deep dive.

i. *the lie* - Satan's slander of God in Gn3: God is not good or righteous TF His Word cannot be trusted.

ii. *Creature rather than Creator*: deceived re: nature of reality; what "is" [ontology]. 2 "beings": Creator [*I am: is*] & creation [*becomes*]

a. Difference tw/ Xn & pagan: Creator - creature distinction.

b. Pagan, "all is one": pan[en]theism

iii. *worship & serve* = vocab of II<sup>nd</sup> c - Ex 20:4.

iv. *who is blessed forever: Amen* = doxology - happy; aseity.

grace: God *did "good"*: sustains life in creation.

- i. sustain creation goodness = God's *witness* - to what? v15 - Creator
- ii. as R1: Creator evident to & in man w/o excuse

2. R2:4a God's *kindness - tolerance - patience*. Men, judicially abandoned, yet given life in God's good creation - beyond wh/ men refuse to see.

3. R1:18 men *suppress the truth in unrighteousness*

- i. *suppress*: push smthg dwn; resist; restrain - avoid
- ii. *the truth* - of God as Creator [v19-20] - v25 *the truth of God in unrighteousness* - prefer sin wh/ idols permit: deceive: surely not die

4. R1:28 note role of conscience; moral judgment made against God

- i. *not see fit*: not accept results of empirical testing; not value
- ii. *to acknowledge God* - NKJ: *retain*; NIV *think it worthwhile to retain*. Same Grk in *suppress - knowledge - moral, ethics*.
  - a. *suppress in unrighteousness* = not have God direct values
  - b. v30 *haters of God*; v32 *know ord of God*
- iii. *just as*: Lex Talionis - just retribution: men abandon God - God abandons men: present wrath

5. R2:4 - God's creation goodness = *riches*: of great value. But not valued: *think lightly*; NKJ *despise*; ESV *presume upon*; NIV *show contempt for* - what is this? Evaluation but, deceived by *the lie* - misinterprets reality; not see God's kindness that should lead to repentance - of the very things men condemn in other men.

6. Now ready to consider the 3rd form of revelation: R1:15-17

## 2nd: God Continues to Engage Men Who Suppress Revealed Truth

1. Hab 3:1 *in wrath remember mercy*. A14:15-17 [IV<sup>th</sup> c - v15]: common