

THE CREATOR AND THE CREATED
Romans 1:20-24

INTRODUCTION:

- A. God has made Himself know to man
 - 1) Verse 19
 - 2) We may not know all, but we know all that we need to know
- B. God is the creator of all things
 - 1) He did it "in Christ" John 1:1
 - 2) He revealed Himself to His creation

I. How Does God Reveal Himself? vs. 20

- A. "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen,
 - 1) "invisible" = ta = "the + aorata = "unseen" things
 - 2) "creation" = ktisis = "a founding, settling, foundation", "a making or creation", "that which was created" "Ever since the world was made"
 - 3) "clearly seen" = kathorao = "to see clearly or distinctly", "the creation that can be seen is clear evidence of something that cannot be seen"
- B. "being understood by the things that are made"
 - 1) "understood" = noeo = "to perceive, to observe, the mental correlative of perception by the senses. To use the intellect.
 - 2) "things made" = poiema = "a thing made" Eph. 2:10, "For we are his workmanship" = "a thing produced, as with effort, object, and design"
- C. "even his eternal power and Godhead"
 - 1) "eternal" = aidios = "always existing", "perpetual" Jude 6 - "everlasting chains, under darkness"
 - 2) "power" = dunamis = "ability to perform anything"
 - 3) "Godhead" = theiotes = "divinity", "the characteristic or property of God" A summary term for the attributes which constitute deity.
 - 4) What man may know of God because he uses his intellect to consider the creation is far more than some rough idol displays.
- D. "so that they are without excuse"
 - 1) "so that" = einai = "pres. inf. used with a prep. to express purpose or result", "the results being....."
 - 2) "without excuse" = anapologetos = "without a legal defense"

II. Where is Paul Taking His Readers?

- A. Remember, there are two groups in this church. They are trying to decide who among them is better. Is it the Jew? What are the Gentiles since they have no law?
- 1) God did not make Jew and Gentile in the beginning. All came from Adam and Eve.
 - 2) With the giving of the law, there was a division. These with it and those without it.
- B. Paul will show them what the Gentiles did
- 1) Verse 21-32
 - 2) Romans 2:9

III. What Natural Man Did or Does With His Knowledge of God

- A. They did not glorify Him vs. 21
- 1) "Because that when they knew God," ginosko = "a personal and true relation between the person knowing and the object known"
 - 2) "they glorified him not as God" doxaxo = "to recognize, honor, or praise"
 - 3) "neither were thankful" eucharisteeo = "to show one's self grateful, give thanks." They should have been thankful to God for being who He is, and not merely for what He give to them.
 - 4) "but became vain in their imaginations" 1) mataioo = "to become foolish, useless, empty, as to results"
2) dialogismos = dia = "through" logismos = logic = computing, reasoning, "thinking things through" "in their reasoning they went astray", "they became fantastic in their notions"
 - 5) "and their foolish heart was darkened" asunestos = "irrational in conduct", "stupid", "darkened" = skotizo = "to make dark", "deprive of light", "their stupid minds groped about in the dark"
- B. They mislabeled themselves vs. 22
- 1) "professing" = phasko = "to assert", "to affirm"
 - 2) "wise" = sophos = "clever", "skilled", "sophisticated"
 - 3) "fools" = moraino = "to make dull", moron
- C. They changed gods vs. 23
- 1) "changed" = allatto = "to make other than it is", "to alter, to change one thing for another, exchange"
 - 2) "glory" = doxa = "splendor", "brilliance", "being"
 - 3) "uncorruptible" = aphthartos = "not liable to corruption, incapable of decay"
 - 4) "image" = eikon = "to be like", "resemble"
 - 5) "corruptible" = phthartos = "perishable"

- 6) "man" = anthropos = ano + athrein + te + opi = "a compound of four words", "looking upwards in his countenance", "a human being"
- 7) "birds", "four-footed beasts", "snakes"
Man, made in the image of God, in full recognition of God's glory as his creator, swapped this glorious God for one made with his own hands. He fashioned it like himself or a bird, or an animal or a snake!

IV. God's Reaction to Their Foolish Trade vs. 24

A. God gave them up to uncleanness vs. 24

- 1) "wherefore" = "because of this"
- 2) "gave them up" = paradidomi = "to give or hand over to another", "deliver over", God turned them over to themselves.
- 3) "uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts"
"lusts" = epithumia = "desire which attaches itself upon its object" It is used exclusively of sinful desire, which corresponds to man's depraved nature"
- 4) "hearts" = kardia = "the seat of life", "and so God, letting them follow the lusts of their own hearts, gave them up to live immorally"

B. "to dishonour their own bodies between themselves"

- 1) "dishonour" = atimazo = "to esteem lightly"
- 2) "so they degrade their own bodies with one another"
- 3) When man deliberately turned from God and God turned man over to his own ways, man became a sexual abuser and a pervert.
- 4) If man is an animal let us behave as animals. Animals have mating instincts for the continuance of the specie. Man has lusts when he moves outside the holy bonds of matrimony.