

Why we think what we think.

Romans 1:21-25

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

What happens when we reject God?

- Our thinking becomes empty and our moral perception becomes clouded – 1:21 *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

2 Kings 17:15

They despised his statutes and his covenant that he made with their fathers and the warnings that he gave them. They went after false idols and became false, and they followed the nations that were around them, concerning whom the Lord had commanded them that they should not do like them.

- Our self-awareness plummets and we become dogmatic in our error – 1:22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

- What is more ironic than being absolutely confident but completely mistaken?
 - The further you get from God, the less you actually know yourself.
 - “The future belongs to the humble” – Lyle Wells. Why? Because only the humble are able *learn* and *act* rightly on the new information.
- We make bizarre trades – 1:23 *and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*
 - We get what we think we want but not what we really need – 1:24-25 *Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.*
 - ‘God gave them up’ – hand over, give (over), deliver, entrust.¹
 - Q: How is God’s wrath revealed?
 - A: He hands over custody to our broken desires that lead us and everything around us to eventual physical and eternal destruction.
 - Q: Where do the ungoverned lusts of the heart carry us?
 - A: *to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, – 1:24b*

Philippians 3:19

Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

- Q: Why would someone do this?
- A: *because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever!*
Amen. – 1:25
 - If you've made the exchange of the truth for a lie, all you have left is a lie.

Q: Where do we go from here?

A: Glorify and thank God. Glorify Him through your repentance and confidence. Remember Him as your ultimate source which leads to thankfulness rather than pride.

Ephesians 4:17-20

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!

¹ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 761.