

Romans 1:18-19 (NLT)

But God shows His WRATH from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

¹⁹ They know the truth about God because He has made it obvious to them.

Romans 1:21 (NLT)

Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship Him as God or even give Him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.

Romans 1:22-23 (NLT)

Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ²³ And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

DOWNWARD Spiral

Romans 1:21-25

Daniel 5:22-23 (NLT)

For you have **proudly DEFIED the LORD of heaven** and have had these **cups from His Temple** brought before you. You and your nobles and your wives and concubines have been drinking wine from them while praising gods of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone...

Daniel 5:22-23 (NLT)

...gods that **NEITHER SEE** nor **HEAR** nor **KNOW** anything at all. But you have not honored the **God who gives you** the **BREATH** of life and controls your destiny.

James 1:17 (NIV)

Every **good and perfect GIFT**
is from ABOVE....

Psalm 106:20 (NLT)

They **TRADED their glorious God** for a statue of a grass-eating bull.

Instead of man being made in **God's image**, **man made gods** in his own image - and then **descended** so low as to **worship birds, beasts, and reptiles.**

Since men Suppressed the TRUTH about God... LAB

- they would not **GLORIFY** what they did
NOT Believe EXISTED
- they did not feel **THANKFUL** to a god that
did not Exist
- their thinking became **POINTLESS**
- the **LIGHT** of **TRUTH** in people's hearts
went **DARK**

→ **Believing that God EXISTS is the STARTING point for Salvation**

²¹ For although they **KNEW God**

¹⁹ ...what may be **KNOWN about God** is **plain** to them, because **God has made it PLAIN...**

²⁰ ...**His eternal power and divine nature** - have been **CLEARLY SEEN**, being understood **from what has been made**, so that men are without excuse.

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

And it is impossible to PLEASE God without faith. **Anyone who wants to COME to Him must BELIEVE that God exists...**

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

And it is impossible to **PLEASE** God without **FAITH**. **Anyone who wants to COME to Him** must **BELIEVE** that **God EXISTS** and that **He REWARDS** those who sincerely seek Him.

→ Grumbling and Complaining Destroys Thankfulness

²¹ For although they **KNEW** God,
they **NEITHER** glorified Him as God
NOR gave thanks to Him.

GOOD MORNING.

If it is a good morning...
which I doubt.



James 1:16-17 (NIV)

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.

¹⁷ Every **GOOD** and perfect gift

is from above,

coming down **from the Father** of the
heavenly lights...

→ How do we Respond to Culture Pursuing DARKNESS?

John 3:19 (NIV)

This is the verdict:

Light has come into the world,
but **men loved DARKNESS** instead of light
because their deeds were evil.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)

¹⁴ You are the **LIGHT** of the world - like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ No one **lights a lamp** and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a **LAMP is placed on a stand**, where it gives light to everyone in the house.

¹⁶ In the same way, **let your good deeds SHINE** out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

1 Timothy 1:20 (NIV)

...Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have
HANDED OVER to Satan to be taught not to
blaspheme.

1 Corinthians 5:5 (NIV)

...**HAND this man OVER to Satan**, so that
the sinful nature may be destroyed and his
spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

Divine judgment is
God permitting
people to **go their OWN way.** NAC

Because sex is such a powerful and essential part of what it means to be human, **it must be treated with great respect.** Sexual desires are of such importance that the Bible gives them special attention and counsels more careful restraint and self-control than with any other desire. **One of the clearest indicators of a society or person in rebellion against God is the rejection of God's guidelines for the use of sex.**

Man found his standards in his own opinions
and **not in the laws of God.**

He chose to live in a **self-centered** instead
of a **God-centered universe.** Instead of
walking looking out to God **he walked looking**
into himself, and, **like any man who does not**
look where he is going, he FELL.

BARCLAY

→ **DANGER do NOT try REPLACE
God in any way**

²³ and **Exchanged** the **GLORY**
of the immortal God for...

²⁵ They **Exchanged** the **TRUTH**
of God for...

Men and women have, as an act of the will, chosen to **REPLACE** the **GLORY** of God and the **TRUTH** of God with lies that justify idol worship and unbridled moral license.

As a result of these choices, **God has GIVEN them OVER** to the pursuit of a life based on idol worship (whether outright or subtle) and philosophies built on their own moral preferences. HNTC

Psalm 81:11-14 (NIV)

But my people would not listen to me; Israel would not submit to me.

¹² So I GAVE THEM OVER to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices.

¹³ If my people would but listen to ME, if Israel would follow my ways, ¹⁴ how quickly would I subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes!

God GAVE them OVER... BARCLAY

- God gave man **FREE-WILL**
- there is an **Element of Judgment**

Instead of **looking** to God as the **creator**
and **sustainer** of life,
they see themselves as the center of
the universe.

They soon invent "gods" that are
convenient projections of their own selfish
ideas. LASB