

THE ROOT SIN OF MAN

Romans 1:21-23

Rom 1:18 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...

Two summary evaluations of all people that justify God's wrath against them:

I. ALL PEOPLE KNOW GOD AT SOME LEVEL

19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made so that they are without excuse.

Two summary evaluations of all people that justify God's wrath against them:

I. ALL PEOPLE KNOW GOD AT SOME LEVEL

II. ALL PEOPLE DISHONOR GOD AT SOME LEVEL

21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks...

II. ALL PEOPLE DISHONOR GOD AT SOME LEVEL

A. *MAN BECOMES IRRATIONAL*

21...they became futile in their speculations...

II. ALL PEOPLE DISHONOR GOD AT SOME LEVEL

A. *MAN BECOMES IRRATIONAL*

21...their foolish heart was darkened.

heart = emotions...intellect...will = the center of all aspects of the inner life

II. ALL PEOPLE DISHONOR GOD AT SOME LEVEL

A. MAN BECOMES IRRATIONAL

B. MAN BECOMES IDOLATROUS

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools...

II. ALL PEOPLE DISHONOR GOD AT SOME LEVEL

A. MAN BECOMES IRRATIONAL

B. MAN BECOMES IDOLATROUS

23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man...

II. ALL PEOPLE DISHONOR GOD AT SOME LEVEL

A. MAN BECOMES IRRATIONAL

B. MAN BECOMES IDOLATROUS

23...and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

Psa 115:3–8 - 4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of man's hands. 5 They have mouths, but they cannot speak; They have eyes, but they cannot see; 6 They have ears, but they cannot hear; They have noses, but they cannot smell; 7 They have hands, but they cannot feel; They have feet, but they cannot walk; They cannot make a sound with their throat. 8 Those who make them will become like them, everyone who trusts in them.

3 But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

Isa 44:12-14 – 12 The man shapes iron into a cutting tool and does his work over the coals, fashioning it with hammers and working it with his strong arm. He also gets hungry and his strength fails; he drinks no water and becomes weary. 13 Another shapes wood, he extends a measuring line; he outlines it with red chalk. He works it with planes and outlines it with a compass, and makes it like the form of a man, like the beauty of man, so that it may sit in a house. 14 Surely he cuts cedars for himself, and takes a cypress or an oak and raises it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a fir, and the rain makes it grow.

Isa 44:15 - Then it becomes something for a man to burn, so he takes one of them and warms himself; he also makes a fire to bake bread. He also makes a god and worships it; he makes it a graven image and falls down before it...17 But the rest of it he makes into a god, his graven image. He falls down before it and worships; he also prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god."

Phil 3:19 - ... whose god is their appetite...

JOHN CALVIN – Every one of us is, even from his mother's womb, a master craftsman of idols.

- *if you center your life and identity on your spouse or partner, you will be emotionally dependent, jealous, and controlling*
- *if you center your life and identity on your family and children, you will try to live your life through your children until they resent you or have no self of their own*
- *if you center your life and identity on your work and career, you will be a driven workaholic.... And if your career goes poorly, you will develop deep depression*
- *if you center your life and identity on money and possessions, you will be eaten up by worry and jealousy about money.*

Exo 20:3–5 - 3 "You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God...

CLOSING THOUGHTS FOR BELIEVERS:

- 1. WE NEED TO REMEMBER THE TRUE STATE OF UNBELIEVERS WHEN WE EVANGELIZE**

1. WE NEED TO REMEMBER THE TRUE STATE OF UNBELIEVERS WHEN WE EVANGELIZE
2. WE NEED TO REMEMBER TO BE ON GUARD AGAINST IDOLATRY

Col 3:5 - Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

Matt 6:24, 33 - 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. ... 33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

CLOSING THOUGHT FOR UNBELIEVERS:

3. YOU NEED TO REMEMBER THE ONLY ANSWER TO YOUR HEART IDOLATRY

Matt 11:28 - Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.