

LIFESTYLE THANKSGIVING
ROMANS 1:21 / 11-25-18/ AM

I. FIRST, MANY PEOPLE WHO CLAIM TO KNOW GOD ACTUALLY DON'T .

- A. Paul said, even those in remote parts of the world, can know that God is real—Romans 1:20.
1. Now it may be true that in some parts of our world there are no Christian missionaries.
 2. However, the point Paul is making is that everyone can at least, through the miracle of creation, know that there is a Creator.
 3. Paul concludes verse 20 with the sobering phrase: **“people are without excuse”**
- B. In the opening line of verse 21 Paul appears to say that his readers know God—**“For although they knew God...”**
1. The Greek word, though, for **“knew”** refers to a limited understanding of something.
 2. In other words they only had a limited understanding of God. They had “head” knowledge of God.
 3. There is a big difference in “head” knowledge of God and “heart” knowledge of God.

II. SECOND, MANY PEOPLE TODAY ARE INDIFFERENT TOWARD GOD.

- A. In verse 21 Paul gives two examples of the people’s indifference to God.
1. First, Paul says, **“...they neither glorified him as God....”**
 - a. In other words, they knew more than they did.
 - b. For example, they knew that God existed, because of what Paul said in verse 20, but they didn’t acknowledge God through either their worship or their lifestyle.
 2. Second, Paul says, **“...nor gave thanks to him...”**
 - a. They were enjoying God’s benefits without acknowledging the source of them.
 - b. They refused to treat God as God.
 - c. They may not have been atheists, but at the very least they were ingrates.
- B. The problem with Paul’s Roman readers and us isn’t a lack of knowledge.
1. The problem, rather, is people are ignoring the knowledge they already have of God.
 2. Truth, however, demands a response.

3. We can't be neutral or indifferent about God.
4. Jesus said—Mat. 12:30a.

Matthew 12:30a

“Whoever is not with me is against me.....”

III. THIRD, WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF INDIFFERENCE TOWARD GOD?

A. First, one result is faulty thinking.

1. Paul says in verse 21—“**...their thinking became futile**”.
2. The word futile literally means “empty”.
3. This often leads to either the denial of God's existence or the denial of His goodness.

B. Second, another result is not only faulty thinking but also faulty believing.

1. Paul says in verse 21—“**...their foolish hearts were darkened**”.
2. Paul declared in verse 20 that light or revelation of God is available to everyone, regardless of where you live.
3. The light or revelation is there for everyone to see. However, if you refuse to see it then you are choosing to live in darkness.
4. The Apostle John well describes the situation of those who refuse the light or revelation about God--John 3:19-20.