

WHEN THE CREATED REJECT THE CREATOR
Romans 1:28-32

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Mankind has a knowledge of God
 - 1) Verse 19
 - 2) They are without excuse - verse 20
- B. Man perverted his knowledge of God
 - 1) Verse 23
 - 2) Verse 25
 - 3) He perverted himself - verse 27
- C. Man chose to displace and then to replace God in his life and lifestyle.
 - 1) Verse 28
 - 2) What happens when men do this?

I. Man Kicks God Out of His Thinking vs. 28

- A. "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge"
 - 1) "They did not see fit"
 - 2) "retain" = dokimazo = "to test", "to put to the test", "to make a decision after a trial". They tested God and then turned aside from Him.
 - 3) "knowledge" = epignosis = "to clear and exact knowledge" "a knowledge that has an effect on the knower + echo en"
- B. "God gave them over to a reprobate mind"
 - 1) "reprobate" = "unapproved", "spurious, will not stand proof" To a mind that won't stand the test.
 - 2) "mind" = nous = "the organ of mental perception, the organ of the consciousness preceding the act, the organ of moral thinking. God turned them over to their own way of thinking.
- C. "to do those things which are not convenient"
 - 1) ta = "the things", me = "not"
 - 2) kathekonta = "befitting", "fit or proper"
 - 3) "to do the things which were indecent"

II. What Men Became Who Reject the Knowledge of a Holy God vs. 29-32 [22 defects - sins]

- A. "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness: full of envy, murder, debate, malignity; whisperers,"
 - 1) "unrighteousness" = adikia = "that which ought not to be, because of revealed truth"

- 2) "fornication" = porneia = "evil nature", "delight in evil", "the wicked act of the mind"
- 3) "covetousness" = pleonexia = "a having more", "the will to have more", "a larger portion", "advantage"
- 4) "maliciousness" = kakia = "bad", "every form of evil"
"the evil habits flowing from"
- 5) "envy" = phthonos = "jealously of another's success", "depreciation of his worth", "envy of his excellence associated with phonos, murder"
- 6) "murder" = phonos = "a killing of men"
- 7) "debate" = eris = "strife", "rivalry", "contention", "wordy wrangling" Matthew - "mouth fighting"
- 8) "malignity" = kakoetheia = "evil disposedness", "the desire of evil to others", "spitefulness"
- 9) "whisperers" = psithurismos = "a slanderer"
- 10) These are not occasional lapses. These are said to be "filled full" of these evils.

B. "Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents" - vs. 30

- 1) "Backbiters" = katalalos = "speaking evil against another, a detractor"
- 2) "haters of God" = theostuges = "haters of God"
- 3) "despiteful" = ubristes = "arrogant insolence", "a mixture of pride and cruelty", "contempt for others", "enjoyment in seeing others suffer", "partaking in it"
- 4) "proud" = uperephanos = "self-sufficient, one who views himself above others, even God"
- 5) "boasters" = "one who makes empty promises and false claims to gain for himself"
- 6) "inventors" = epheuretes = "inventors of new forms of vice as was Nero"
- 7) "disobedient to parents" = "refusing to obey parents", "rebellion against parental authority"

C. "Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful" vs. 31

- 1) "without understanding" = asunetos = "void of understanding", "dull of apprehension"
- 2) "covenant breakers" = asunthetos = "faithless to an agreement", "bound by no agreement"
- 3) "without natural affection" = astorgos = "unloving", "without affection"

astorgos = unloving, without tenderness. It refers to the lack of the feelings of natural tenderness, as seen in a mother who exposes or kills her child, a father who abandons his family, or children who neglect their aged parents (Godet)

- 4) "implacable" = aspondos = "without league or agreement"
"without respect for treaties"
- 5) "unmerciful" = aneleemon = "without pity", "not actively compassionate", "not desirous of relieving the ills of others"

III. Sinning With Full Knowledge vs. 32

- A. "Who knowing the judgment of God"
 - 1) "knowing" = epiginosko = "to know thereupon" i.e. by looking on as a spectator", "to know fully well"
 - 2) "judgment" = dikaioma = "that which is declared right"

- B. "that they which commit such things are worthy of death"
 - 1) "commit" = prasso = "to do", "to work", [expressing an action as continued or not yet completed; denoting what one does habitually]
 - 2) "worthy" = axios = "of equal value", "of like worth", "worthy of"
 - 3) "death" =

- C. "not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them"
 - 1) "not only are they guilty of them, themselves"
 - 2) "pleasure" = suneudokeo = "to take pleasure in, in conjunction with others" They were fully aware of God's penalty for these sins, yet with this knowledge they went and did it anyway and enjoyed doing it with others whom they encouraged in the same sins.