

Chapter 5

Rejection of God

Chapter 5 - Rejection of God - Part 1

As you study Romans 1:18-32, the verses explain what exactly is going on in our society and pretty much what is going to continue to happen. Repeatedly, throughout Romans 1, it shows cause and effect and the progression of it.

By way of review, Romans 1:19 and 21 begins with, "*Because*" and verse 26 says, "*for this cause*", which is the same as saying "*because*." In verse 24, is the word "*wherefore*". These words and phrases demonstrate cause and effect. "Because" or "for this cause" the effect "wherefore" happens. Additionally, cause and effect has a progression.

Beginning with verse 23, three changes are made In verse 23, "*They **changed** the glory of the uncorruptible God*", in verse 25, "*Who **changed** the truth of God into a lie*", and verse 26, "*... **did change** the natural use into that which is against nature:*" All of this is a part of the cause and effect.

Romans 1:18 begins with "*... the wrath of God*". From several lessons concerning the wrath of God, it's clear there are different aspects of God's wrath. The aspect being spoken of here in Romans 1, is the abandoning wrath of God. God does abandon a society, meaning He simply takes His hands off and you go your way. In the United States and pretty much the whole world, God has let man follow his own course and man will destroy himself.

Romans 1:19 tells why (the *cause*) God's wrath is revealed, "*Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them*". From our lessons on this, it is plain that man is born with a conscientiousness of God, but it does not justify him or her in any way and does not save them. In fact, they will misuse it. Verse 20 tells how God "*... is manifest in them*"; "*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen,*" Creation itself is a testimony, a manifestation of God. Man is born with that conscientiousness.

Moving on from the review, Romans 1:21 begins to

tell what man does with his natural conscientiousness of God, the general knowledge, the general revelation of God. It is one of the reasons for the wrath of God. *"Because that, when they knew God, [Refers back to verses 19 and 20, man's natural, not saving, knowledge of God. Because of that man is without excuse.] they glorified [him] not as God,"* When they knew God in this general way, they glorified Him not as God.

People will say all the time to proclaim their righteousness, "I've always believed in God." It doesn't make them right with God, but rather probably puts them right here in these verses. *"When they knew God they glorified Him not as God."* What does that mean? It means they didn't reverence the Lord. They did not admire, honor, or exalt God. They know God in their conscientiousness, they have a general revelation of God, but that does not mean they admire, exalt, or honor God. General knowledge will not lead anyone to reverence the Lord.

Question people a little further who say, "I've always believed in God," and you will find that they don't believe in the God of the BIBLE. They believe in the image of the god that they've created in their mind and the God of the BIBLE goes against that. They don't love the God of the BIBLE and have created a god in their minds they can mold and fit into their lives. It makes them very comfortable, and the God of the BIBLE upsets that and disturbs them. They don't value God in their heart, nor praise or truly worship Him. Only the saved can do that. The general revelation of God in creation, in providence by itself, does not cause men to praise or glorify the Lord. When they know God in a general way, in the context of a general way, they glorify Him not as God.

Continuing in verse 21 it says, *"... neither were thankful;"* That phrase means more than most people realize. Even with a general revelation, surrounded by God's creation, surrounded by God's everyday workings in their lives, people are oblivious to God. The same ones who say, "I've always believed in God," go through their day oblivious

to God, void of a spirit of gratitude. "*Neither were thankful.*"

What does that word "*thankful*" mean? First of all, thankful is a noun and therefore names a thing. The "thing" thankful names is an inward emotion, a way of thinking, an inward disposition and inclination. "*Neither were thankful*" shows that there is something missing inwardly.

Thankful is an attitude of giving thanks. Being thankful and giving thanks are two different things. The attitude and spirit of thanks is an inward feeling of appreciation. Why don't people **give** thanks? Because they're not thankful **inside**. That is why they hear a message on giving thanks and they say, "From now on I'm going to give thanks," and that lasts about twenty minutes.

Being thankful is an inward problem which is made clear in Colossians 3:15, "*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*" Verse 17 refers to **giving** thanks, "*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks ...*" **Being thankful** and **giving thanks** are two different things. Being **inwardly** thankful comes before you can **outwardly** give thanks. Why do we have to remind our children when they were small to say thank you? Because they aren't thankful inwardly. Why do you have to keep reminding them? Because they don't have it inwardly. People are teaching them to outwardly give thanks. I'm not so sure that's a good thing. It is being respectful, but at the same time it isn't coming from the heart, from inside. We're teaching them to be future members of Baptist churches and as such to put on a "show" and that nothing has to be inward.

Let's think about the phrase, "*neither were thankful*". Colossians 3:15 says, "... *be ye ...*" That is a state of being. If "thankful" is our state of being, we will give thanks. We won't have to be reminded. "... *be ye thankful,*" is a state of being that involves an awareness of God. Romans 1 says the unrighteous knew God, but they did not glorify God, neither were thankful. Just because one knows God created the

moon and the stars, doesn't mean they are aware of God inwardly. To be thankful is to be aware of God and the fact that the unrighteous were not thankful means they were not aware of God.

To be thankful involves a spirit of humility. To know God in a general way, yet to not glorify Him, neither be thankful means people are not humble enough to have a thankful attitude. This humility comes from a sense of unworthiness, and people today do not feel themselves unworthy. In their minds they are worthy of everything because since they were a baby, they've been raised that way, the government teaches them that, along with every TV commercial and advertisement. "You deserve the best." In individuals with this general knowledge of God, there is no humility. Humility comes from an inward sense of insignificance and dependence upon God. However, men don't feel themselves insignificant. They are proud, self willed, independent of God, and they do not submit to God. The result is they *neither are thankful*.

In Colossians 3:17 there is, "... *giving thanks...* " If you're thankful, you give thanks. People generally as an everyday habit do not give thanks, because they are not thankful. God makes us thankful. The thankful heart God gives us prevents and protects us from a life of bitterness. It's hard to be bitter and discontent if you're thankful.

To be thankful refocuses our perspective, taking it off of our self and putting it on the Giver, refreshing our heart and diminishing bad feelings. Being thankful will change a bad mood. It will be soothing balm in times of trial. Being thankful brightens hope, enhances enjoyment, strengthens love to God, and the desire to live for God. The people Romans 1 is referring to, knew God, but neither were thankful. They weren't any of these things. They are bitter and discontent. Look around you today and you will see people in general are very bitter about everything. Even churches today are bitter. A thankful heart would cure that. Discontentment is why people are constantly pursuing the

things of the world. They are not satisfied. A thankful heart will cure that, too.

This spirit and attitude of unthankfulness is a result of *"they glorified not God."* It is irreverence and oblivion toward God. 2nd Timothy 3:2 declares, *"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, [‘Unthankful’ is a state of being. Notice what follows.] unholy,"* Unthankful and unholy go hand in hand. This general revelation of God does not render man thankful or holy.

Romans 1:21 says, *"they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful"*. It wasn't one or the other; not glorify God, or not be thankful. They didn't do either one of these things. This verse is stating the reasons for God's wrath, the cause and effect, the reasons for this progression. *"... when they knew God, ..."*, the general conscientiousness of God, does not result in man glorifying nor being thankful to Him. That speaks of a negative attitude toward God. The world has a negative attitude toward God, considers God as a nuisance, and that He is in the way. That's why they try to eliminate and expel Him from everything.

The attitude toward God in various nations, societies, and cultures, as well as our country, society, and culture, is revealed throughout history and reveals what we've just read here in Romans 1:21. This attitude towards God is evident everywhere, and is widely declared in the humanist manifesto, which we will go into in more detail in future lessons.

What is the Humanist Manifesto? There is Humanist Manifesto 1, written in 1933; number 2, written in 1973; and number 3, written in 2003. In general, the Humanist Manifesto is simply the declarations and aspirations of the humanist worldview. That's all it is. You say, "I don't really care." You ought to. "It doesn't concern me." Oh yes it does. You need to be aware because we are bombarded with it every single day. If you are aware of Humanist Manifesto

1, 2, and 3, you will become aware of their world view. It explains a lot of the thinking of children, young adults, and even older adults. Everyone has become a victim to some degree of humanism.

So what is humanism? Perhaps you have or have not seen the logo of the humanist associations, which is depicted in humanist manifestos, for what it is. This logo is everywhere, on all kinds of buildings in the city, near where I live. It's supposed to depict a human and the logo says, "Good without a god." That sums up everything they believe. "Good without God." "*... when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful.*"

This ***rejection of God*** is spoken of very clearly in Romans 1, and is declared very clearly in the Humanist Manifestos. The foundation of ***all public education*** is humanism. ***Almost every TV show is based on humanism. That's why it ought to concern you.***

In Humanist Manifesto 1, it's written "religionist humanists", which I find humorous. They hate religion, but they call themselves "religious humanists". Humanism is a religion, declared so by the Supreme Court in 1961. It's the only religion allowed in the public schools today. In Humanist Manifesto 1 it says, "Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created. Humanism believes that man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as a result of a continuous process." That is evolution. "We are convinced that the time has passed for theism, deism..." ***That was in 1933.***

In Humanist Manifesto 2, under the heading of "religion," it says, "We believe, however, that traditional dogmatic [*They put some emphasis on that word.*] or authoritarian religions [*Next is what they mean by dogmatic and authoritarian.*] that place revelation, God, ritual, or creed above human needs and experience do a disservice to the human species." In other words, God's people are the enemy. If you do a disservice to the human species, to mankind, you're an enemy. It goes on, "We find insufficient

evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; it is either meaningless or irrelevant to the question of survival and fulfillment of the human race. As nontheists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity."

I believe every single time that you and I begin with man and not God, that is humanism. That's not where you begin. I don't care if you're problem solving, that's not where you start. That's what the humanist does. They start with man. That's where man always starts. He leaves God completely out of the picture. Christians start with man and eventually work their way to God. It's still humanism. Because you've started wrong.

In Humanist Manifesto 3, from 2003, it says, "Humans are an integral part of nature, the result of unguided evolutionary change." What foolishness. "Humanists recognize nature as self-existing. We accept our life as all and enough, distinguishing things as they are from things as we might wish or imagine them to be. We welcome the challenges of the future, [*If they only knew. If they would read Romans 1, they might know a little about the future.*] and are drawn to and undaunted by the yet to be known." Evolution is the foundation of what they believe in. They believe in man, not in God.

"When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God neither were thankful" results in humanism. Humanism left to itself will follow that path of man. Proverbs 14:12 & 16:25 say the same thing, *"There is a way which [or that in chapter 16] seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death."* The reason is because of the abandoning wrath of God. God eventually takes His hand off and says, "Follow your way." Now you see the results everywhere.

The Supreme Court cited secular humanism as a religion in 1961. Most public educators realize that the foundation of the entire education isn't God. I'm not saying that every person in public education is a bad person. But they know the foundation is not God. Humanism, according

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to the Supreme Court, is a religion and is allowed to be taught in public schools to the exclusion of all others.

Our government has embraced humanism. If you really pay attention to almost any politician, even those who make mention of God, you will see they are humanist through and through. Even when God's people talk, humanism comes out all the time. It's everywhere. Romans 1 shows the cause of and effect of humanism.

Chapter 5 - Rejection of God - Part 2

We started in the last lesson, looking at Romans 1:21, *"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God,"* That "knowledge" of God is a natural consciousness of God, it is not the saving knowledge of the Lord.

"... they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful;" This rejection of God that is spoken of throughout Romans 1, is very clearly manifested in the Humanist Manifestos 1, 2 and 3, written in 1933, 1973 and 2003, respectively. The Humanist Manifestos are pretty similar to a church's statement of faith. Humanism, being a religion, has their own statement of what they believe.

The Supreme Court cited that secular humanism is a religion in 1961. They declared that secular humanism was a religion and it is the only religion that is allowed in the public education system today. On June 17, 1963, the Supreme Court banned prayer, banned government endorsed prayer and Bible reading in public schools. It wasn't always followed or practiced. The point is that the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the religion of secular humanism. They've been doing the same thing ever since. It's proof in our society of, *"... when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God,"*

In 1968, the Supreme Court overturned state laws that banned the teaching of evolution in government funded schools. In doing so, they again ruled in favor of the religion of secular humanism. They again proved, *"...when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God,"* Here we are today. People talk about the younger generations, how they don't think right and so on. That's all true. There are always exceptions, of course. But, how did that happen? We are looking at it today.

For the most part we, as a society, gave our children over to the religion of humanism. As Baptists you did not raise your children in nor permit them to go to The Church of Christ, the Nazarene church, Catholic or Lutheran church.

But yet, those same parents sent their children to the church of humanism. The truth is this, God's people can be very hard on the younger generation, but there comes a time when God's people better look in the mirror and fall on their knees asking God's forgiveness for sacrificing their children on the altars of humanism.

Here we are in 2019. We are now a society where the median age is around 37 and 1/2 years old. About 80% of the population was born from 1960 on. That is very significant. That explains a lot of what is going on today. What that means is that the vast majority of our population have lived their entire life under the perverted narration, bombardment, pervasive lies, control, and manipulation of humanism. Secularism is one in the same. Pluralism. Humanism is pluralistic. Relativism, materialism, atheism are all connected with the religion of the humanist.

The vast majority of our population have lived their entire lives not just in the classroom, but have lived their entire lives exposed to anti God philosophy. It's everywhere. Now here's the foolishness. "They ought to know better, because when they were being raised, they were in church every Sunday and every Wednesday." That's three hours. Compare that to all the hours they sat in the religious classroom of humanism. It does not compare.

The vast majority of our population have lived their entire life in a society infiltrated by the godless religion of humanism. I'm not bragging, because we have all been affected by humanism in our thinking, to some degree. However, I can remember very well that our kids never went to a public school. I can remember very well, preachers lecturing me on how that was not right. I'm sorry, but if you want to talk about what's not right, let's talk about the public school system. It's evil and it has been for a long, long time, going back to the early 1960's. Even prior to that, humanism had already gotten in, to some degree.

The vast majority have lived their entire lives with

their brains saturated with that which is twisted, they which is perverted and erroneous. Their brains are saturated with it, even if they don't pay attention in school, they are bombarded with it. Television and radio contribute to this bombardment. We did have TV in the house, but if I had it to do over, I probably wouldn't. It doesn't make sense that you would raise your kids one way and then bring something in your house that teaches them just the opposite. It doesn't make sense.

My kids will say, "You were so strict." I wasn't strict enough, because there were inconsistencies. I would not have allowed someone to come into my living room and curse, but you have that television where cursing goes on. "Well, we turn it off." By the time you turn it off, it's too late, the words have already been said.

What is the result of this general rejection of God? *"... when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful;"* Notice in verse 21, *"... but became ..."* Oh, we need to just stop at those two words. Society knew God in an intellectual way, a natural consciousness of God, but they did not glorify God. They were not thankful to God and they became something. You follow the history of our nation, specifically, beginning in 1960 and go on from there. You follow that and you will see that we have become something, and it's not good.

There was a progression. Really, we should say there was a digression. They became. What did they become? They became vain in their imaginations. This is the result of, *"... they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful;"* In other words, God was replaced, and they became vain in their imaginations. These very people would be the ones who would teach the children. They became vain in their imaginations. They became teachers, leaders, but in their minds, vain. That word vain means more than most people think.

"... they glorified [him] not as God, neither were

thankful;" because they grow or digress into vain imaginations. This is the pattern that is seen all through the word of God. A rejection of God results in vanity of mind, vanity of imaginations.

Again, this pattern is seen throughout the scriptures. Look at 2nd Kings 17:15, *"And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity ..."* They rejected God. You remove God and you replace Him with something. What you replace Him with is vanity. *"... and became vain,"* There are two different things here. Following after vanity is bad enough. But you follow after vanity long enough and you become vain. That's more serious. It is the result of following vanity. Following vanity is the result of a rejection of God. You follow vanity long enough you become that which you are following.

"... and went after the heathen that [were] round about them," That's the result of becoming vain. You follow the heathen. The humanist manifestos are the belief system of the heathen, those without God, those who reject God. *"... [concerning] whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them."* Reject God, follow after vanity, become vain, then they become very accustomed to and finally adopt the ways of the heathen. Jeremiah 10:2 says, *"... Learn not the way of the heathen,"* That's where we are, that's what we've become in our society. We are a heathen nation who grasps, embraces humanism and secularism.

You reject God and vanity is what follows. You can see that in the lives of individuals. You can see that they reject God and they become something. You can't reject God and not have consequences. You become something. What they become affects the next generation and the next and the next. Pretty soon, that cycle is almost unbreakable. God, of course, can intervene.

Romans 1:21 says, "... when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful;" 'They' refers to the "... men who hold the truth in unrighteousness," from verse 18. They had a natural consciousness of God. This comes about from creation and it is the providential acts of the Lord. Verse 21 also shows they had two problems; they did not glorify Him as God as He is revealed in the scriptures, and they were not thankful. Continuing, verse 21 next says, "... but became." They became something as the result of their general rejection of God.

Verse 21 shows there is a progression, or more properly, a digression. It says they became vain in their imaginations, meaning they became futile and wasteful in their minds. Man would have you believe that he just keeps getting more and more intelligent. The Bible, of course, speaks to the contrary. Man became vain, empty, futile, wasteful in their minds. They grow or they digress into vain imaginations.

In the last lesson we showed this pattern of digression is shown throughout the word of God, beginning with 2nd Kings 17:15. Now, continuing with this pattern, Psalms 81:11-12 says, "*But my people [Referring to Israel.] would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: [and] they walked in their own counsels.*" We see a digression in that He gave them up, He let them go and they walked in their own counsels.

In Isaiah 44:9-20, speaking of idol worship, "*They that make a graven image [are] all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they [are] their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed. Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image [that] is profitable for nothing? Behold, all his fellows shall be ashamed: and the workmen, they [are] of men: let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; [yet] they shall fear, [and] they shall be ashamed together. The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with*

hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint. The carpenter stretcheth out [his] rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house. He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish [it]. Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth [it], and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth [it]; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto. He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth [himself], and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire: And the residue thereof he maketh a god, [even] his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth [it], and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou [art] my god. They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; [and] their hearts, that they cannot understand. [They've become vain in their thinking.] And none considereth in his heart, neither [is there] knowledge nor understanding to say, I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten [it]: and shall I make the residue thereof an abomination? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree? He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, [Is there] not a lie in my right hand?"

These verses show that man in his foolishness and vanity, creates idols. The world is full of idols as is the American society. "*He feedeth on ashes.*" Does man get better by these things? No, he gets worse. Is his life improved? No, it gets worse. "*A Deceived heart hath turned him aside.*" When they do not glorify God as God, they become vain in their imaginations, their heart is deceived,

and life gets worse and worse and worse, gets less and less meaningful. Man loses his mind and digresses in his so-called intelligence. That's where we are today.

I have to laugh. I believe that most of America believes mankind is just so much smarter than he's ever been before. I believe he is stupider than he's ever been. The ignorance is at an all time high. In Jeremiah 2, beginning with verse 5, *"Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, [That's glorifying not God as God.] and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?"* You walk after vanity long enough, you become vain. It's one thing to follow that which is vain, but it is a far more serious problem when you become vain and can not help but follow after that which is empty. These here in Jeremiah became vain just like we read in Romans 1.

Continuing in Jeremiah 2:6, *"Neither said they, Where [is] the LORD that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, that led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought, and of the shadow of death, through a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt?"* They didn't look to God for the solution. People today, in their so-called intelligence, do not even consider God as a solution to their problem. That's how it was here.

In verse 7 and 8, *"And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination. The priests said not, Where [is] the LORD?"* No one was turning to God. He was not even considered, just as Romans 1:21 says also. *"... and they that handle the law knew me not:"* It is like that today, people don't know God. *"... the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after [things that] do not profit."* That's vanity. Even among the religious leaders of the day, all is vanity.

Jeremiah 2:9-11, *"Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the LORD, and with your children's children will I*

plead. For pass over the isles of Chittim, and see; and send unto Kedar, and consider diligently, and see if there be such a thing. Hath a nation changed [their] gods, which [are] yet no gods?" That's what it is not to glorify Him as God. "... *but my people have changed their glory for [that which] doth not profit.*" For that which is vanity, that which is empty.

Verses 12-13, "*Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD. For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters,*" In Romans 1:21, when they knew God they glorified Him not as God. They forsook God and then became vain in their imaginations, and they replaced God. It always happens that people forsake God and they replace Him with something, which becomes a greater problem. Continuing in verse 13, they have forsaken God, the fountain of living water. "... *[and] hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.*" They took the time to plan and hew out these cisterns. But the problem was that the cisterns could hold no water. They were empty. They became vain.

Then in verse 14-15, "*[Is] Israel a servant? [is] he a homeborn [slave]? why is he spoiled? The young lions roared upon him, [and] yelled, and they made his land waste: [Vanity, waste.] his cities are burned without inhabitant.*" Jeremiah goes on in verse 18, "*And now what hast thou to do in the way of Egypt, to drink the waters of Sihor?"* You see how this people has digressed. There was God, the fountain of living waters, and now they are drinking out of the polluted rivers of Egypt. They think their life is improving.

People will go to great lengths to try and convince one another that life is so much better than it has ever been. "Really? I didn't know that." Nothing could be further from the truth. But that's what man does; he rejects God, he replaces God, and then tries to convince himself that life is better than it has ever been, that he is making improvements to his life.

Then Jeremiah 2:18, the question is asked, "*why do you drink the waters of Assyria?*" In verse 19, "*Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that [it is] an evil [thing] and bitter,*" It will make your life bitter. It will not improve your life. "... *that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear [is] not in thee,*" They not only reject God, but they get to the point where there is absolutely no reverence for God whatsoever. "*My fear is not in thee.*" That's where we are as a society.

In verse 20, "*For of old time I have broken thy yoke, [and] burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot.*" That's what society is doing. They just wander. Verse 21, "*Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?*" God says, I blessed you greatly, but you have turned into a degenerate plant. Life is not improving anywhere in the world because it's based upon this rejection of God.

In Jeremiah 2:23, God is reasoning with them, but you can't reason with a fool. "*How canst thou say, I am not polluted,*" How can politicians and religious leaders look at society and say there is nothing wrong? How foolish. They have convinced themselves that there's nothing wrong with them. "We're not polluted."

He said earlier, in verse 22, "*For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, [yet] thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord GOD.*" They think they have made themselves better. They think they have progressed as human beings. But God says their iniquity is marked before me. So it is today.

Again in verse 23, "*How canst thou say, I am not polluted, I have not gone after Baalim? see thy way in the valley, know what thou hast done: [thou art] a swift dromedary [Camel] traversing her ways;*" Following, in verse 24, is a pretty good picture of a man that rejects God.

"A wild ass used to the wilderness, [that] snuffeth up the wind [Just out there sniffing away. Life is empty.] at her pleasure; in her occasion who can turn her away? all they that seek her will not weary themselves; in her month they shall find her."

Then in verse 27, *"Saying to a stock, Thou [art] my father; and to a stone, Thou hast brought me forth:"* Saying to a dead idol, "You're my father." What foolishness. They became vain.

Today, one of the great idols of American society is education. Education, I believe, is one of the most overrated things in the world. Education, *"Thou has brought me forth,"* is what man believes about education today. They believe it has caused him to progress, it has made him better, made society better. They are vain, *"for they have turned [their] back unto me, and not [their] face:"* Any time we turn our back upon God, vanity is the result.

Talking to their idols, whatever they have made an idol, they say, *"... but in the time of their trouble they will say, Arise, and save us."* Man actually believes that the people they elect to office will solve their problems. They actually believe that. That's is just as stupid as someone looking to an idol and saying it will help them in time of trouble. They have become vain.

In Jeremiah 2:31 God asks what He has done, *"Have I been a wilderness unto Israel? a land of darkness?"* God is asking if He has done something to them that would cause them to turn away from Him. Their reply, *"We are lords; we will come no more unto thee."* What they were saying is, "We are masters of our own lives. We can handle this." People talk about the American spirit that it will get us through anything. In other words, we are our own savior. Really? People believe that foolishness.

Verse 32, *"Can a maid forget her ornaments, [or] a bride her attire?"* It's not very likely that the bride is going to forget to put on her bridal clothes, but this is far worse, *"yet my people have forgotten me days without number."*

Chapter 5 - Rejection of God - Part 3

Jeremiah 2:33, "*Why trimmest thou thy way to seek love?*" They just want to be loved, just want to be liked, and they will do anything to achieve that. In verse 36, "*Why gaddest thou about so much to change thy way?*"

You see that when you forsake God, you follow vanity. You forsake God, you replace God with vanity. You do that long enough, you become vain. In other words, you just keep doing the same things over and over.

Jeremiah 10 is the chapter that those who are adamantly opposed to Christmas and Christmas trees, always go to. Jeremiah 10 is not talking about Christmas trees. It's talking about idols

In Jeremiah 10:3, "*For the customs of the people [are] vain: [That's true.] for [one] cutteth a tree out of the forest, [Most people link this to cutting a Christmas tree out of the forest. I bought mine at the store.] the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; [See, they are putting the ornaments on the tree.] they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They [are] upright as the palm tree, [talking about this tree] but speak not: they must needs be borne, [Carried. There's no life in them.] because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also [is it] in them to do good.*" That's still true today also. That tree can not do evil, that tree can not do good. "*Forasmuch as [there is] none like unto thee, O LORD; thou [art] great, and thy name [is] great in might. Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise [men] of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, [there is] none like unto thee. But they are altogether brutish...*" He is talking about the people who worship these trees. He's talking about them making trees their idols. He says they are brutish. "*...the stock [is] a doctrine of vanities.*" He's simply talking about idols.

The pattern is this; reject God, end in vanity. They did not glorify God as God, therefore they were not thankful, they didn't even think to show gratitude toward God. God is

not in their thoughts, they rejected Him and they became vain. This vanity now becomes a further cause of God's wrath. It's not only a cycle of sin, but a cycle of God's wrath. The fact they become vain, by itself, gives reason for God to display His wrath. Everything they do in their vanity becomes further reason for the wrath of God.

Rejection of God results in a forfeiture of real meaning in life. That which is vain really has no meaning, no purpose. American society is filled with that which has no purpose or meaning. 50,000 people gathered in a stadium cheering and going nuts has no meaning, no bearing upon life, none. I happen to like sports, and I do watch it, but it's meaningless. People's days are ruined because it didn't turn out the way they thought it would. They are angry. It doesn't matter.

We could make lists all day long of things that are just vain, that just don't matter. Where does it all come from? These vain things are not decreasing, they are increasing all the time, because man has become vain and he invents more vain things. All that does is take him further from God and cause God to display His wrath even more. It's a cycle that you do not want to get caught in.

Yet it is the cycle of mankind. It has been the cycle of mankind since the fall. It happens to be the cycle that society is caught in, especially in these last days. Not just American society, but societies in the whole world are caught in this cycle. They have rejected God, they have pursued vain things, they have become vain, they invent more vain things and they go further and further and further from God. God just lets them go, which brings about more of the wrath of God.

People say, "What will man come up with next?" If you think you've seen it all, you haven't. It's going to be worse, more foolish and more vain. Sadly, God's people to some degree, get caught and become victim's of this vain society. God help us.

Chapter 5 - Rejection of God - Part 4

From the last lesson, Romans 1:21 shows a cycle of digression that explains the way things are in the world today. It begins with a rejection of God. Man's natural consciousness of God's creation and providence manifests itself and man rejects that. Why? Paul states the reason, *"Because that, when they knew God, [That is in their natural consciousness.] they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful;"*

Next, verse 21 says, *"... but became ..."* As a result of their rejection of God, man's state of being, his imaginations became vain. The rejection of God leads to vanity, to vain imaginations. Vanity is the lack of meaning. It is emptiness. Rejection of God results in the forfeiture of the real meaning of life. You see it everywhere, even among God's people.

To become vain conveys the idea of futile, useless. Vain imaginations refers to mankind's thought process; which is our reasoning, speculations, conclusions, and incentives. Man's entire thought process, their thinking became futile, useless. You're in a pretty sad state when the thought process of the "thinkers", the problem solvers of the day, is futile and useless. They became vain and unproductive in their imaginations.

For a lost man to say, "Well, let's reason this out," You're reasoning with the wrong person, because their thought process is futile. Their reasoning is contrary to scripture which is going to lead to further problems and further manifestation of the wrath of God. In his vain imaginations, man comes to some pretty wild conclusions. He can look at facts and draw conclusions that are beyond belief. These are educated people. Why is that? Because they become vain in their imaginations and they draw wrong conclusions. It's all vain, it's all empty, it's futile. The entire thought process is vain.

When people, which applies to the child of God as well, reject God and His word in any area of their life, their thought process becomes skewed. They begin to make

decisions on that skewed thought process and what happens? They get further and further into the mud. That's the world. That's why it's scary when congress meets. If you think about it, it's a scary thing when any group of people meet to solve a problem. The problem is they are the problem, but they, of course, don't see that.

The entire thought process is vain. Psalms 94:11 is very plain on this, "*The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they [are] vanity.*" Why? It is the result of rejection, of not glorifying God as God. In Psalms 119:113, "*I hate [vain] thoughts: but thy law do I love.*" The psalmist draws a contrast between vain thoughts and God's word, which explains that vain thoughts are thoughts contrary to the word of God. Today, of course, man is completely secular, which means his thoughts are contrary to the word of God. We as God's people ought to hate vain thoughts. We ought to be able to detect vain thoughts in ourselves.

God, speaking to His people in Jeremiah 4:14, says, "*O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. [Delivered] How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?*" Their vain thoughts are what brought them to the place where they needed deliverance. The word "lodge" is used, showing these vain thoughts are not just passing through, they are there to stay.

I will never understand why a child of God would go to the world for advice, especially spiritual advice. I understand you go to certain professional people for advice on things, but I'm speaking of spiritual, moral advice or about how to raise a child, whatever. Why would you do that? You're talking to someone whose thoughts are vain, futile. In 1st Corinthians 3:20, the BIBLE says, "*The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, ...*" The wise aren't individuals who the Lord recognizes as wise, but are those you profess to be wise, who the world recognizes as wise. The Lord knows their thoughts, "*... that they are vain.*" They are futile, useless. It doesn't mean that they are uneducated.

It means that they did not glorify God as God and they became vain in their thought process, in their imaginations.

This is also what the Psalmist is referring to in Psalms 2:1, *"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD,"* They do not glorify Him as God, as Romans 1 speaks of. Continuing, *"... and against his anointed, [Meaning His people.] [saying], Let us break their bands asunder,"* This is what people, who do not glorify God as God, think in their vain thoughts. They are saying, "The Lord and His people are restricting us, our life, our freedom." *"Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."* In their view, their vain thinking, the Lord and His people are restrictive on their life. They became vain in their imaginations.

Why is it that the lost and even some who profess to be saved, get out of sorts, get themselves in the mire, and the first people they want to blame is the church or the pastor? And people actually listen to that garbage. Don't give them an ear, don't listen to them. Tell them to stop right there. You should tell them, "I don't care what the church has done. That is not your problem. Your problem is a spiritual problem and it's not somebody else's fault." If someone listens to them, then in their own vain imaginations, they start to think, "Well, you know, they have a point." Really? They became vain in their imaginations. It's a dangerous thing to get caught in the cycle of vanity in our thoughts.

Ephesians 4:17 refers to vanity of the mind. *"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, [How do they walk?] in the vanity of their mind,"* The mind is powerful. They become vain because they glorified God not as God and rejected God and the knowledge of Him. Now they conduct their lives in the vanity of their mind. There is no good that can come out of that. You're going to find yourself in the hog pen and it's

no one's fault but your own.

In Colossians 2:18, *"Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,"* This is speaking of pride! Man thinks he's smarter than everyone else by his fleshly, secular, carnal mind. That's the problem today. These people have rejected God and they think that's progress and a sign of intelligence, but it's a sign of foolishness, of being a fool. The result is they conduct their lives building themselves up as something they are not, and it gets worse and worse and worse.

In Titus 1:15, it says, *"Unto the pure all things [are] pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving [is] nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled."* That's a vain mind. They became vain in their imaginations, and even their mind and conscience is defiled.

This display or the manifestation of a vain mind, vain imaginations, a vain thought process, vain reasoning, is about self-esteem. That's why we hear so much about it today. You can not tell anyone they are wrong because that would hurt their self-esteem. "Little Johnny, what color is this?" It's blue but Johnny says it's red. "Well, Johnny, if you think it's red, then it's red." That's about where we are. "If you think it's red, then it's red to you."

Vanity of mind, self-esteem, results in self absorption. We are a self absorbed, self glorifying society, which is the result of a vain mind. Yesterday at some event, I was talking to someone and I said, "You know, I can never remember this type of event when I was a kid. They didn't have them. They didn't have a celebration for an occasion like this." You weren't congratulated for doing something you were supposed to do in the first place. It was like, "Well, that's what you're supposed to do. Why are we celebrating this?" There's nothing wrong with celebrating things, but it's to the point where we celebrate everything. "Little Johnny's

got to get a star because he went to the bathroom." That's what he's supposed to do. It's self absorption, self gratification, self will, self seeking, self sufficiency, all of which are the result of vain imaginations.

What do these vain imaginations lead to? There is a cycle here. They rejected God, they became vain in their imaginations. This isn't something they did occasionally. They have become something; their state of being became something different and what they became results in a lot of other things.

Vain imaginations result in vain babbling. 1st Timothy 1:6, it's talking about charity out of a pure heart, good conscience, and faith, *"From which some having swerved have turned aside unto [You leave something, you go to something else.] vain jangling; [Vain babbling]."* You listen to a politician talk for an hour and they might make one point. The rest is vain babbling. They can't help it. They have become vain in their imaginations.

Timothy was a young preacher and Paul is telling him in 1st Timothy 6:20, *"O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane [That which is holy, but treated unholy.] [and] vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called."* We know true science does not contradict the word of God, but **so called science** does. These are vain babblings and oppositions of science falsely called science. Many things are falsely called a lot of things today because of vain imaginations. That's why instead of using the word "Sodomite", we use the word "gay". They call it what it is not. Definitions of words have changed because of vain imaginations.

In 2nd Timothy, 2:16, we're told, *"But shun profane [and] vain babblings: [Here is why.] for they will increase unto more ungodliness."* So it is, when they reject God, they do not glorify God as God, they become vain in their imaginations and this increases into more ungodliness.

Ephesians 5:6, says, *"Let no man deceive you with*

vain words:" Vain imaginations lead to vain words. Vain words are deceiving words. "... *for because of these things [Vain words] cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*" Romans 1 is talking about the wrath of God. They become vain in their imaginations, in their thoughts, in their words, and things get worse and it causes God to unveil more of His wrath.

There is vain knowledge. Job 15:2, says, "*Should a wise man utter vain knowledge, and fill his belly with the east wind?*" "*East wind*" means emptiness. Vain knowledge is knowledge that is futile. Remember trivial pursuit? People say, "I'm good at that!" I wouldn't brag about it because it falls under the category of **vain knowledge**. It doesn't do any good to know those things. What good is knowing Elisabeth Taylor's birthday? It's vain knowledge. That's what vain imaginations lead to, vain learning, vain knowledge.

There is vain labor. Everything becomes vain when the imaginations become vain. Psalms 127:1, "*Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:*" In other words, they built it, but it's vain, it's empty. "... *except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh [but] in vain.*" Vain imaginations lead to vain babbling, vain words, vain knowledge, vain labor. In Jeremiah, 51:58 says, "*Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the people shall labour in vain, and the folk in the fire, and they shall be weary.*" They labor in vain and they become weary. Vain imaginations have sad, sad consequences.

Vain imaginations also result in false hope or vain hope. Society today is built upon vain hope. Notice in Jeremiah 3:22-23, "*Return, ye backsliding children, [and] I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou [art] the LORD our God. Truly in vain [is salvation hoped for] [Deliverance] from the hills, [and from] the*

multitude of mountains." Israel had a spiritual problem and they were looking to the hills for armies to come and save them. They looked to the secular for the solution to a spiritual problem. That's vain hope because the secular does not fix, does not solve your spiritual problem. A spiritual problem has a spiritual solution. This verse shows vain hope. "You do this and take these ten steps, you'll be delivered." "... *truly in the LORD our God [is] the salvation of Israel.*" If your hope is not in the Lord, that's a vain hope, it's an empty hope.

You notice people who reject God, who become vain in their imaginations, and they begin to reason, to conclude, and draw assumptions from their vain imaginations. Their life is a mess, and they start thinking, "Everything in my life is falling apart, BUT if I can just get a good job everything will be better." They land a good job and guess what? Everything is not better. They have vain hope, "The job will fix my problems." But the job won't fix your problems and at best, it might solve some financial problems. A good job won't fix a spiritual problem. They have this vain hope that just keeps getting worse and worse.

Next, they get a job and keep it for two weeks and either quit or get fired. Now they've got that to blame for their situation. "Those people did that to me. If they hadn't made me mad, I wouldn't have had to quit." Then, here we go. Somebody comes along and says, "Oh, you poor thing. You've been done wrong." God help us. Don't you see the cycle they're in? You're not going to fix their problem. Only God can fix that problem. "Well they just need another job." How long will that one last, another two weeks or a month? It's vain hope. That's what vain imaginations lead to. They lead to vain hope and pretty soon people are chasing these vain hopes. It's like chasing the wind. You never catch it. Even if you did, you wouldn't know what to do with it. Vain hope.

There is a cycle here in this vain imaginations that

Chapter 5 - Rejection of God - Part 4

only the Lord can break. The cycle was started because of a rejection of God. It can only be reversed by getting back to God. Vain imaginations lead to more, not less, vain imaginations. Anything you try outside of getting back to God will not reverse it, either. Only God can do that. Vain imaginations is a serious, serious problem with destructive consequences.

Chapter 5 - Rejection of God - Part 5

The subject of Romans 1, is the revealing of God's wrath. It's a very accurate portrait of not only our nation, but also of society and the world in general. Romans 1:21 describes this cycle, "*Because that, [There is a reason and the reason follows.] when they knew God, [When they knew God in their natural consciousness.] they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became*" They became something because they rejected God and were not thankful.

They did not become something better. You will never become something better by rejecting God. Politicians and educators along with many others try to convince us today that man is getting better. But that's not possible because man has rejected God. They are becoming something, but it's not better and it's not progress in the good sense of the word. They "... *became vain in their imaginations,*" That is their minds become futile, useless, unproductive.

As pointed out in the last lesson, "*imaginations*" has to do with our thoughts, reasoning, speculations, and conclusions. Their thoughts become vain. Trying to reason with most people today is almost beyond belief. They have no ability to reason because their imaginations are vain. Man can take basic facts and come to a conclusion that is pure fantasy. He has some facts, but is not able to make a right conclusion. That's a vain mind. That's a vain imagination. That's where we are today. It also would include our incentives. Our mind is vain, useless, and futile.

The entire thought process is vain, which leads to no good thing. It leads to self-esteem, self superiority; we are surrounded by these things today; self absorption, self glorification; self will, meaning, "I'll do what I want and I have the right to do what I want"; self seeking, self sufficiency, and on and on we go. They became vain in their imaginations. It leads to vanity in every area of life.

Vain imaginations lead to vain babbling. There is a lot of vain babbling, vain words, vain knowledge, as Job speaks of in Job 15:2. People today think that they are more knowledgeable than any other society that has inhabited the

earth. Nothing could be further from the truth. What they know is vain, empty, and it doesn't do them any good. Take trivia for example. We have a society that loves trivia. That's vain knowledge. It's futile, it doesn't mean anything.

People have vain hope. They build their life on vain hopes, vain customs, vain comfort. The things people look to for comfort today do not give them lasting comfort. It's vain.

There is vain worship. This is everywhere. You look at the so called religious world, so called Christendom and for the most part their worship is vain. That's because they have become vain in their imaginations. The Lord speaks of this vain worship in Isaiah 1:11-15, and 29:13. Jesus makes reference to it in Matthew 15:9, where, if you go to most churches today, this is what could be said, *"But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men."* In verse 8, He said, *"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with [their] lips; but their heart is far from me."* When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God and they became vain, not only in their imaginations, but they became vain in their worship. Most worship services today are just utter foolishness just to appease the flesh of man. In Mark 7:7, *"Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men."*

There is vain glory. Galatians speaks of vain glory in chapter 5:26, it mentions the things that people take glory in, are vain. Their sports team wins and they will say, "This is the happiest day of my life." That's pitiful, that's really sad. That's vain glory.

Then, there is the book of Ecclesiastes. Some would debate that Solomon is the author, but that's foolishness. Solomon was an individual who had everything, but his life is very sad. He fell into sin and, for the most part, lived his life apart from God. He was miserable because of it. There are also different views upon the meaning of the book of Ecclesiastes. Some people read Ecclesiastes and they say, "Everything is vanity." I don't believe that. What is the

point that Solomon was making? Solomon found that *apart from God*, life is vanity. That's the whole point of Ecclesiastes, "*Apart from God*, everything is vanity, even if you have everything the world has to offer, as Solomon did."

Romans 1:21, "*Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, ... but became vain in their imaginations,*" means they began to live their lives apart from God. It's like Solomon is saying in Ecclesiastes, "This is what I have discovered, this is the point that I have come to. *Apart from God*, everything is vanity, it's futile, it's worthless, it means nothing." That is the world today. The world lives their life apart from God. They are oblivious to God. They give no concern, no thought to God. In fact, people are becoming more and more offended by God.

Solomon discovered, apart from God all earthly pleasure loses its meaning. Is all earthly pleasure vain? No, I don't believe so. Not if you live it with God. Is it vain to have pleasure in visiting with your family or your friends? No, but if it's apart from God, it means nothing. All earthly pleasure apart from God loses its meaning, is empty, and brings no real satisfaction. Solomon says in Ecclesiastes 2:1, "*I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure:* [Solomon is searching. He says in his heart, go find pleasure and that will make you happy.] *and, behold, this also [is] vanity.*" Why is the world always coming up with new pleasures? Because the old one was vain. They are hoping this new one will last. What is pleasure at one time will not be in another time, because man continues to change.

In Ecclesiastes 2:10, he says, "*And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy;*" People love to have a good time. It's unbelievable how far people will drive to have a good time. "*... for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.*" It was all vanity apart from God.

In chapter 7, verse 6, he writes, "*For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so [is] the laughter of the fool: this also [is] vanity.*" In other words, like the thorns under a pot,

the laughter, the good time of the fool doesn't last long. Who is the fool? What Solomon wrote in Proverbs is, "The fool says in his heart there is no God". It's the person who tries to live their life apart from God.

We see that apart from God, worldly possessions are empty and unsatisfying. Ecclesiastes 2:4-11, notice, "*I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards: I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all [kind of] fruits: I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees: I got [me] servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me: I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, [as] musical instruments, and that of all sorts. So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: [He was the richest man of that time.] also my wisdom remained with me. And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all [was] vanity and vexation of spirit, and [there was] no profit under the sun.*" Apart from God, it's all vain, it's all vanity.

Along those lines in chapter 5:10, "*He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; [Why? Because it doesn't bring him what he thought it would.] nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this [is] also vanity.*" Not only is the silver vanity, more importantly the thought process of, "Silver is going to make my life better. This or that is going to make my life better," that thought process is vain imaginations. What makes your life better is a closer relationship to the Lord. Without God, it's all in vain.

Take notice of all of Solomon's labor and what being "successful" meant. Christianity has bought into the world's definition of success. Success is not happiness, because you

can be foolishly happy and ignorant. Success is not what you achieve in this world. Remember what God said to Joshua, in chapter 1, *you will find GOOD success*. It was all related to God. Here is success; you do what God tells you to do, you stay in the will of God. You might die in poverty, but that's success, just simply doing what God tells you to do, being in the will of God. Don't buy into the world's definition of success. The world's definition is apart from God. Apart from God, all is vanity.

In Ecclesiastes 1:17-18, *"And I gave my heart to know wisdom, [That's education. We're not criticizing education or knowledge. But, apart from God, it's dangerous.] and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. For in much wisdom [is] much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge [That is, outside of God.] increaseth sorrow."* You can't just take that as a blanket statement and say that all knowledge brings sorrow. But rather, **apart from God**, education is in vain, it's futile, it doesn't amount to anything. *When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful. They "became"*.

Man is "becoming" more and more. That's the cycle. Man rejects God more and more, so he becomes more and more vain and futile in his thought process. Common sense is a very, very, rare thing, because man is becoming more and more vain in their imaginations. If you were to listen to some of the things politicians think, it is beyond belief. No right thinking two year old who would believe such nonsense. They have become vain in their imaginations. It just gets worse and worse. When you think you've heard the stupidest thing ever, the next day you will hear something even more stupid. It's almost like there in a contest to see who can outdo the other in stupidity. That's why the upcoming presidential debates (2020 election cycle) will be interesting. It's a contest to see who can show who's the most stupid, the most ignorant. I wouldn't want to win. They have become vain in their imaginations.

Romans 1:21 continues with, *"AND"*. Other than

becoming vain in their imaginations, in addition to their minds becoming vain, "... *their foolish* [Their God thoughtless and vain,] *heart was darkened.*" It became more foolish. Because of their rejections of God, their hearts are immersed in darkness. In describing the heart; the very being of the ones who rejected a natural knowledge and consciousness of God, the individuals who did not glorify God as God; those who are not thankful, oblivious of the blessings of God, just like the hog under the acorn tree eating away, never looking up, never giving a thought to where those acorns might be coming from; that's how people are. They enjoy God's creation and bounty, and for the most part, they never give thought as to where it comes from; that's a foolish heart.

They weren't thankful and became more and more secular in their thought, their reason, speculation, and conclusions. Paul in the inspiration of the spirit said, their hearts were foolish. The word "foolish" in this case is the Greek word, *asunetos* [as-oon'-ay-tos], meaning without discernment. They had no discernment or understanding. It means they are senseless. Their foolish heart is that which lacks discernment and understanding and sense. That's their foolish heart. A heart that has no discernment.

For the most part, discernment died a long time ago, yet there are some that, of course, have discernment. What is discernment? Discernment is the ability to make a distinction between what is true and false, right and wrong, good and bad. When presented with two contrary things, you have the ability to say which is true and which is false, to know what is right and wrong, to make a distinction between good and bad. Not only does man not have discernment, he encourages no discernment by saying there is no right or wrong. That's even worse than not having the ability to discern. Man's foolish heart lacks discernment. From Ephesians 5:15, "*See then that ye walk circumspectly*, [That is, very carefully. See that you live your life carefully, or with great care.] *not as fools*, [Not as those who have no discernment.] *but as wise*," They became vain in their

imaginations, their heart is foolish, meaning they live life carelessly, in a very unthinking way. They are inattentive.

We have a society in which at least a couple of generations now, do not seem to have the ability to say, "If I do this, this will be the consequence." They make no connection between behavior and consequence. When they behave a certain way, the natural consequence comes, because they can't make that connection. Really, they can't, because their foolish heart is darkened. It's not that they won't, it's worse, because they can't make that connection between behavior and consequences. Instead of tracing the consequence back to the behavior, it's the fault of everybody. There's no connection. Their brain doesn't work that way. Why not? Because they became vain in their imaginations. There are people who father children, over and over again. They don't make the connection. They do so out of wedlock and mothers are left raising children by themselves and they can't understand why. Vain imaginations. Their foolish hearts were darkened. They have no discernment, they do not have the ability to discern, they do not make the connection.

I'm sure the inability to make the connection between behavior and consequence is some sort of mental illness. That is the point. They became vain in their imagination, they became vain in their thought process and their foolish heart was darkened. The mental illness is not because of a medical condition, but because of sin. Sin is insanity. Sin can cause mental illness. Society is absolutely plagued with the mental illness of sin.

When you sit down and try to reason with a person who can not make the connection between behavior and consequence, it will drive you nuts. You're trying to reason with someone that does not have the ability to reason. This is the result of, "*became vain in their imaginations*". That's where we are as a society. People will say, "All you have to do is sit down and talk with them." Try it. "They just need a good talking to." If it was only that easy. It's much, much deeper than that. It's the progression of sin.

Chapter 5 - Rejection of God - Part 6

To recap the previous lesson, in Romans 1:21 it says those who reject God become vain in their thoughts, they become ignorant, and blind. Then it goes on to say, "*and their foolish heart was darkened.*" In addition to their minds becoming vain, they are foolish, that is their God thoughtless and vain heart was darkened. It starts with a rejection of the Lord. That results in their hearts being immersed in darkness. They reject the natural knowledge or consciousness of God, they did not glorify God as God; they were not thankful, they became oblivious to the blessings of God; they are secular in their thoughts, reasoning, speculation, conclusions; their hearts were foolish.

Also from the last lesson, you learned the Greek word for foolish means "without discernment." Their hearts were without discernment, meaning they did not understand. They become senseless. Discernment is the ability to make a distinction between what is true and false. Mankind today has lost discernment. They do not have the ability to recognize the difference between true and false, right and wrong, good and bad. That's how wrong becomes right and right becomes wrong in their minds. Most people today do not know the difference between good and bad. What they call good is bad and vice versa. We see a cycle here.

When their foolish heart was darkened, Ephesians 5:15, says they began to walk carelessly. They began to walk in an unthinking and inattentive manner. What does this bring? This brings greater danger, greater consequences into their lives. It also provides another reason for the wrath of God. They're in that cycle. That's where we are today as a nation, as a society, as a culture. Their foolish senseless, hearts were darkened.

Darkness is used all through the scriptures to represent sin, evil, wickedness, corruption, guilt, error, ignorance, sorrow, misery, danger, and that which is satanic. This darkness has a power, In Colossians 1:13, speaking of our unsaved condition, darkness applies in this sense, "*Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,*" It's not who

hath delivered us from darkness, but who has delivered us from the POWER, the control of darkness.

"Their foolish hearts were darkened" also speaks of the fact that they are digressing further. That's mankind today. That's why they are trying their best to convince you that even though they are going further and further down into the pit they are progressives. They are not progressing to the better. All the world is in a state of digression. We can see the pattern in Romans 1. They digress into a lack of good sense, judgment, and discretion.

Vanity is the result of the rejection of God, and it leads to greater foolishness. The more vain you become in your imaginations, the more foolish you become in your life, which leads to greater blindness. It's a cycle you can not just get out of in and of yourself. They think educating the people is the answer. Who's doing the educating? Those who have become *vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened*. The cycle just continues and continues.

This is the pattern all through the word of God. It shouldn't be a shock. In Deuteronomy 28:15, *"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:"* There is the key. They will not only come upon you, but they will overtake you. You're under their power. You become a slave. Then in Deuteronomy 28:28-29, *"The LORD shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart: [That's the wrath of God that is revealed.] And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, [Their foolish heart was darkened] and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save [thee]."* No man can deliver you. Man does not have the power to fix the problems of our country, our society, our culture. No man can deliver us from where we are. Only God, by His grace,

can.

You reject God, that leads to vanity, which leads to spiritual blindness and ignorance. This is the cycle. Rejection of God results in vanity. Vanity results in spiritual blindness. Spiritual blindness results in more rejection of God. That results in more vanity, and more spiritual blindness. Are we getting smarter? Not according to this pattern, this cycle. Man is not getting smarter, he is digressing further and further.

In our society, this rejection of God, this disregard for God, oblivion of God, has resulted in many things. It has resulted in God being expelled from the schools. I have even heard God's people, those who profess to be saved, say, "Well, God doesn't belong in the public school." You're a fool. If someone believes that, they're a fool. Their foolish heart is darkened. God has been dismissed from the schools and the courts. He's been evicted from all areas of our society and culture. His word has been systematically pushed out of the national consciousness. The result is we have, for the most part, a Godless society. It's not getting better because it's a cycle. This cycle is all through the word of God.

As a result of this rejection of God, this disregard of God, oblivion of God, we have become a nation, a society and culture that is mired and saturated with vanity. We are in the stranglehold of vanity and ignorance. It's this rejection of God that has brought us humanism. We've already spoken at length on humanism and will continue to do so. Humanism, to make it simple, is a worldview that centers upon human interests, human dignity, human worth, human potential and goodness. Someone might say, "Well, that doesn't sound that bad." But it begins with a rejection of God. It makes man god. It puts man in the place of God. It is the religion of self.

Humanism is the national religion of the United States. The national religion is not Catholicism. The national religion is the religion of self. That is the religion

that is taught in public schools and all kinds of schools, even christian schools. It's taught everywhere.

Rejection of God has led to secularism. What is secularism? It's a worldview that stems from humanism and places the emphasis upon the temporal instead of the spiritual. The Lord has a lot to say about that in His word. It is basically the pathway of the unsaved, who know not God, who are walking in the darkness of their fallen state. Secularism is the life and activity of the result of the fall. Everything is secular. We live in a society that boasts that we are a secular society. They boast about it. Why would you do that? Because their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. Secularism is the thinking, the ideas, the philosophies, the values, attitudes, ambitions, the goals, pursuits, and behavior of those who are alienated from God. It is secular. It is temporal rather than spiritual.

You have humanism, secularism, and then you have pluralism. You may hear someone say, "We live in a pluralistic society." We do. That can simply mean that as a country, we are made up of many races and backgrounds. That is a pluralistic society. We're not saying it is sin to be a mixed people in a nation. The danger is pluralism. Pluralism is the view that there is more than one kind of reality. That is to say, what you think is real and what I think is real, are both correct and both legitimate. In other words, since we have this mixture of people and religion, we just have to accept what they believe is true and everything is equal. That, of course, is not so. Their foolish heart was darkened. There is no ability to discern. How many times have people said, "Well, we worship the same God." But we don't. That's pluralism.

Pluralism feeds tolerance and political correctness. It's pluralism that feeds the attitude that you can not offend anyone. If Johnny says this is blue, although it's red, the teacher says that if Johnny thinks it's blue, it's blue. That's ignorant. But that is where we are as a society. "Well, if

they think it's right, then it's right." There is no ability to discern. It's this pluralistic attitude that makes an attempt to make all beliefs valid. The Bible is very clear that all beliefs are not valid. All of these stem from humanism and secularism.

There is relativism. Relativism basically declares that truth and morality are determined by their relation to culture, society, or circumstances. In other words, what was wrong twenty-five years ago is no longer wrong because culture now accepts it. Culture, rather than God's word, becomes your standard. Circumstances become your standard rather than God's word.

This is all the result of, *"their foolish heart was darkened."* They think they are progressing. They think this is a sign of intelligence. "This was wrong thirty years ago, but we've advanced past that. It's no longer wrong, We've declared it to be right. We're smarter." But, they are not.

Relativism is the view that truth does not exist in any objective sense. Everything is relative to your circumstances, relative to what's going on around us. It's the view that there is no absolute. There is no absolute moral standard. If there is no absolute moral standard, then everyone becomes a standard to themselves. That's exactly what humanism teaches. That is exactly what was going on in Judges. "Every man did that which was right in his own eyes." "Well, that's wrong, but, if they think it right, who are you to say it's wrong." That's the thought process. God help you if you're in that thought process.

Pluralism is the rejection of dogmatism and that which is absolute. It is what gives us situational ethics. "Well, it's wrong in normal situations, but the situation ... " The Bible doesn't teach that anywhere.

All of these things go back to a rejection of God. Ours is a nation, a society, and a culture that lives under the perverted bombardment, the pervasive lies, the control and manipulation of humanism, secularism, pluralism, relativism. People are spellbound by the philosophies and fantasies of

such teachings.

This is a cycle, a loop. Once in that cycle, that loop, the only hope is that God intervenes. As the cycle continues, the wrath of God continues. These things are the wrath of God in which God leaves man to himself to do what he would naturally do. The result is disaster and ruin. God's wrath is not just tornadoes, hurricanes, and whatever else. The wrath of God is God saying, "Go ahead. Do it your way." Man suffers as a result.

Continuing from the last lesson in Romans 1:21, it says, "*but became vain in their imaginations, [The result of that was.] and their foolish heart was darkened.*" That is their vain or empty thought process led to greater ignorance, greater blindness, and that has led to such things as humanism, which centers upon human interests, human dignity, human worth, human potential, human goodness. The result of that is a lot of other things. The most obvious result is man becomes more and more self centered as he focuses upon his own worth and potential.

A foolish darkened heart also leads to secularism. Secularism and humanism go together, but they are not the same thing. Humanism centers upon self, while secularism centers upon the temporal, meaning the seen rather than the spiritual. The results of that are devastating as well.

Then there is pluralism, where all thought is equally valid and legitimate. It comes from a pluralistic society, in which there is the attempt for everyone to get along and accept their erroneous beliefs. We, meaning God's people, are expected to admit that their pluralistic beliefs are just as valid as ours. That of course is a serious error. It's an attempt to make all beliefs contrary to the word of God valid, and to encourage individuals to embrace, to accept, to approve of, and participate in all other beliefs.

Then there is relativism, which stems from all the above "isms". Relativism is that truth and morality are determined in relation to culture, society, and circumstances. In their view, the Bible doesn't determine what is true or false. Society, culture, and your circumstances determine what is right or wrong. With relativism, the basic thing is that truth does not really exist. Truth is objective. All of these things are the result of "*they became vain in their imaginations.*"

Our society, our nation, and culture is spellbound by these philosophies. These philosophies are taught everywhere, even in little children's books. People are bombarded by it and we, as God's people, need to learn to

identify humanism, secularism, pluralism, and relativism. These philosophies are everywhere and if you look, you can not help but see them.

We are a society that is becoming more and more tolerant of abomination and man thinks he is wise in doing so. Man is more and more accepting and accommodating of abomination. Abomination is embraced, and even celebrated. We see that in the forefront of our culture. They have parades and politicians feel they must join in on those things that are abominations and celebrate those things because they don't want to be thought of as unkind or unloving. When that happens, you've fallen into the trap of vain imaginations and all the results from it.

Romans 1:22, says, "*Professing themselves,*" referring to those that are vain in their imaginations, whose foolish heart is darkened. They are "*Professing themselves to be wise,*" which is the common boast of those who reject God. "We're smarter than everyone else. We're wiser, more intelligent. Our IQ is higher." This verse uses the term "***Professing***", which ***does not mean*** that they ***possess*** the greater intelligence they claim openly. In other words, it's not a secret. Sadly, they claim falsely, "Professing themselves", to be something they are not. They are deceived.

Rejection of the natural revelation of God leads to man claiming for himself what he does not possess and will not possess if continuing on his present course. Ezekiel 28:2 shows what Romans 1:22 means by "Professing themselves to be wise". Ezekiel 28:2 says, "*Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart [is] lifted up, and thou hast said, I [am] a God, I sit [in] the seat of God, in the midst of the seas;*" This first part of the verse describes basic humanism. Men become God. If God exists in their mind, He is lower than they are. This is what man professes in his own wisdom. The last part of this verse, however, is the truth. "... *yet thou [art] a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:*"

As we have said over and over, they see themselves as evolving, progressing in intelligence. Their vain imaginations only increase, their blindness increases, yet they continue to profess themselves to be wise. What is the result of that? They trust more and more in themselves and become more and more filled with their own ways. That results in them going further and further from God, which leads to the wrath of God. It's that endless cycle. That's why it continues to get worse and worse. Man follows this path. You follow a road long enough, eventually you get to where the road leads. That is true in behavior as well.

At the very best, mankind possesses a carnal and worldly wisdom. The Bible distinguishes between a carnal, worldly wisdom and a true, spiritual wisdom. Man sees himself evolving, progressing in intelligence; they trust more and more in themselves; they become more and more filled with their own ways. Jeremiah 4:22 says, "*For my people [is] foolish, they have not known me; [That's foolish.] they [are] sottish [Habitually drunk.] children, and they have none understanding: [Professing themselves to be wise, yet being filled with their own ways.] they [are] wise to do evil, [They are clever to do evil.] but to do good they have no knowledge.*" They call evil good and good evil being twisted in their entire thought process. James 3:14-15 shows us the nature of carnal, worldly wisdom, "*But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom [That is the mindset that leads to envy and strife.] descendeth not from above, [It is not from God] but [is] earthly, [It's the spirit of the world. The spirit of the world is anti-God, anti-Christ.] sensual, [It appeals to the human flesh.] devilish. [It is demonic.]"*

Man continues to follow this path, this cycle, in which carnal, worldly wisdom is devilish, demonic. That is why demonic activity is not going away. It is only increasing more and more. People think demons are some fantasy. Even God's people seem to downplay the possibility of that happening today. I believe it's more so today than it's ever

been and will be even more so tomorrow. That's the cycle we are in. The sad truth is, just as many of God's people who can not identify humanism or secularism when it's right in front of them, can't identify demon-ism. It's all around them and they don't see it. All you have to do is look at the characteristics of the demons in the scriptures and it's very obvious we live in a demonic time.

Reverence for God is where true wisdom is found. Remember where this started. They glorified Him not as God. They don't have reverence for God. Since they don't have reverence for God, they can't have wisdom. They can't have true spiritual wisdom. It's a sad day when God's people go to the world; which does not have any spiritual wisdom whatsoever, and they seek advice. They seek spiritual advice from the world.

There are several scriptures that show reverence for God is where true wisdom is found. Remember the cycle here in Romans 1; they glorified Him not as God, there is no reverence for God. Job 28:28 says, *"And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, [Which is reverence.] that [is] wisdom; and to depart from evil [is] understanding."* Those who became vain in their imaginations, have no understanding. What do they do? They don't depart from evil, they go headlong into evil and the cycle continues.

Psalms 111:10, *"The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom."* Education, learning the way of the heathen is not the beginning of wisdom. The beginning of wisdom is to reverence God. *"... a good understanding have all they that do [his commandments]: ..."* This reverence leads to obedience to His commandments, to a departing from evil.

Proverbs 1:7, *"The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of knowledge: [but] fools despise wisdom and instruction"* referring to Godly wisdom and instruction. When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God and they became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened. This verse shows fools despise or think

lightly of wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10, *"The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy [is] understanding."* Holy is that which God has set apart from the secular. These people who are vain in their imaginations, their foolish heart is darkened, they profess themselves to be wise, yet they think they are the ones that understand. They understand nothing. They have no understanding. Their foolish heart is darkened. Proverbs 15:33, *"The fear of the LORD [is] the instruction of wisdom; and before honour [is] humility."* Reverence for God instructs us in wisdom.

These individuals who profess themselves to be wise and have not glorified Him as God do not even have the **beginning** of wisdom and understanding. It is these people that our country elects to understand our problems and come up with solutions to what plagues society. The truth is they are a major part of what plagues society. That's why God's people ought not to put their trust in these human leaders. I'm not saying that everyone who holds public office is a fool, certainly not. There are some exceptions. However, the general rule is; their foolish heart is darkened.

The so-called wisdom or knowledge that they have is really of their perverting nature that takes them further off course. Isaiah 47:10 says, *"For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; ..."* Man in his vain imaginations has come up with such things as abortion. It's perverted. To show how foolish they are, they try to argue killing an infant from a position of morality. It's sad any time these people even mention the word morality. *"... and thou hast said in thine heart, I [am], and none else beside me."* That's humanism.

In Isaiah 59:8 it says, *"The way of peace they know not; and [there is] no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace."* In their foolishness, in their professed wisdom, they have made themselves *crooked paths*, and

never reach the peace that they long for.

We see this general cycle of ruin, of destruction. As man follows this cycle, things get worse and worse. People ask all the time, "Do you think it can get worse?" Oh, I know it will. I not only think it will get worse, I know it really will. The Bible bears that out. People say they "... can't imagine it getting worse." It is getting hard to imagine, but it can be worse. As bad as it is now, it can be worse, and it will be worse.

In the past couple of lessons, we have focused on the phrase in Romans 1:22, "*Professing themselves to be wise.*" The truth is that mankind is anything but wise. Those who have glorified God not as God, became vain in their imaginations, whose foolish heart was darkened, are self deceived. Then they profess to have what they do not possess. What this does is take them further off course. They have gotten side tracked and are going a different direction away from God. Their own thought processes take them further and further off course, which leads to things getting worse, not better. Isaiah 47:10 says, "*For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: [They trust in their own foolishness. They lean upon that.] thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I [am], and none else beside me.*" There is self centeredness and they put themselves in the place of God.

Their twisted thinking and lifestyle is part of their perversion. "*Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee.*" It has twisted them and they continue to go further and further off course, becoming more and more twisted. We of course live in a day where the twisted thought processes of society are very manifested.

As they go further off course, the more twisted they become. Here, today, it's almost a contest as to who can be more twisted. I know it's not, but it seems that way. In Jeremiah 5:4, it says, "*Therefore I said, Surely these [are] poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the LORD,*" They are foolish because, in their wisdom and in their knowledge, they know not the way of the Lord. Their own wisdom takes them further and further off course.

In Amos 3:10, you find, "*For they know not to do right, saith the LORD,*" That is very true. As they become twisted in their thinking, and stay in that "place" long enough, *they know not to do right.* They don't even know the difference between right and wrong. That's why many times people will say, "They know better." Do they? Perhaps they do, which doesn't make it any better because they are

deliberately sinning against what they **do** know. Do they really know better? Because, if they've lived in this twisted thought process long enough, they get to the position where they don't. They may have known at one time, but they don't know it any more. *"They know not to do right, sayeth the Lord."* What's right is wrong in their eyes, and vice versa.

"... who store up violence and robbery in their palaces." They bring upon themselves the judgment of the Lord. They store up robbery, meaning they are going to lose more and more. However, they think they are gaining. You look at people today and their whole life is dysfunctional, and yet sometimes they will speak as if they are on top of the world. They are so ignorant, they don't even know. Their thought process is twisted.

In Micah 4:12 it says, *"But they know not the thoughts of the LORD"* Professing themselves to be wise, but the truth is they know not the thoughts of the Lord. *"... neither understand they his counsel:"* Not only do they not know His thoughts, they do not understand His counsel. The ways of God do not make sense to them, because their mind, their thought process is twisted. Nor do they have any desire to understand the counsels of the Lord. *"... for he shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor."* Judgment is coming. That's what Romans 1, is talking about, the wrath of God is judgement.

These individuals reject their natural consciousness of God; they glorify them not as God; then next, they become vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart is darkened; their thoughts are empty, futile, blind in their heart but they profess themselves to be wise. They say they're advancing, progressing, evolving into something better, professing themselves to be wise. The truth is wisdom begins with reverence towards God, and they don't have that. They don't have spiritual wisdom, spiritual knowledge. They have a worldly knowledge, which according to the book of James is devilish, it's carnal. Jeremiah 5:4 says, *"... they know not the way of the LORD, [nor] the judgment of their God."*

Now in Jeremiah 10:14 you find, *"Every man is brutish [Animal like, savage.] in [his] knowledge:"* This so-called wisdom, this worldly wisdom turns people into savages, which would be very well manifest in abortion. They think they are wise, more advanced by killing the unborn. *"... every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image [is] falsehood, and [there is] no breath in them. [Meaning their images]"*

In Romans 12, we are told not to be wise in conceit. People who have rejected God are wise in their own conceits, in their own imaginations, in their own opinion. Having an opinion doesn't make it fact. Someone has degree after degree; they're wise in their own imagination, in their own opinion. But just because one is wise in their own imagination, in their own opinion, doesn't mean they are. We are not to be wise in our own conceits. These individuals who have rejected God, they're wise in their own opinions. Proverbs 3:7, *"Be not wise in thine own eyes:"* This is exactly what these individuals are. They are wise in their own eyes, wise in their own conceits. In Isaiah 5:21, *"Woe unto [them that are] wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"* God isn't saying woe unto them who are wise, but rather woe unto them who are wise in their own eyes, who in their own opinion, consider themselves intelligent.

Man today thinks that he is more intelligent, more advanced than any other society that has ever lived upon the earth. That is just not so. It is true, we have more technology, but that's not the issue. Is man smarter? I don't think so. I don't think he's smarter than he was 30, 40, 60 years ago. There's been a dumbing down, and as people are dumbed down, they think they are smarter than anybody else that has ever lived. What happens is they become wise in their own eyes, trust more and more in themselves, which takes them further and further from God, which brings them into the judgment of the Lord. That's not more intelligent, but that's where we are.

In 1st Corinthians 1:19, it is implied that this

professed wisdom is really enmity against God. *"For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. [That is, 'I will bring it to nought.']"* Then there is a challenge in verse 20, *"Where [is] the wise? where [is] the scribe? where [is] the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"* Do not be intimidated by the so-called knowledge of the so-called educated, because their wisdom really is foolishness. Then in 1st Corinthians 1:21, *"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God,"* Man in his own wisdom does not know God. *"... it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching ..."* Do not confuse this with foolish preaching. There's plenty of that going on. Man in his wisdom thinks preaching is foolish; thinks it's foolish for someone to stand up and preach; thinks it's even more foolish for people to sit and listen to that kind of thing. *"... by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."* It's implied here that this wisdom that man possesses, this worldly wisdom is really enmity against God.

Society, in general and God's people have been convinced that our children have to be educated by the world. That is a trap that God's people have fallen into. Parents will pay for four or six years so children can go to college and get out and work at Koles or McDonald's. Thousands and thousands of dollars. It's foolishness, but people have been convinced that they have to have that, and they can't survive without a college education. Really? What happened to God taking care of His people? Again, they glorified Him not as God.

The history of Israel in Psalms 106:35-42, is talking about God's people, [35]*"But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works."* You better be careful about mingling among heathen and sending your children off to college to mingle with the heathen. [36]*"And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them."* [37]*"Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils,"* The Israelites literally did sacrifice their children to the false god,

Moloch. Parents don't literally sacrifice their children today, but they do in other ways. [38] *"And shed innocent blood, [even] the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood."* That is how it is today. The land becomes more and more "polluted", meaning Godless, as generation after generation learns the way of the heathen. [39] *"Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions."* 'Went a whoring', means they went apart from God, dedicating themselves to that which was not of God. They 'went a whoring' with their own inventions, which they invented in their own wisdom and learning the way of the heathen. [40] *"Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance."* These things bring the wrath of God. [41a] *"And he gave them into the hand of the heathen; ..."* That's the judgment in Romans 1; *"He gave them over."* Here we see they learned the way of the heathen, continued in it, had the inventions of it, and they went apart from God. The result was He gave them over into the hand of the heathen. There's no turning back once that happens. [41b] *"... and they that hated them ruled over them."* [42] *"Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand."* Those who reject God don't want anybody to rule over them. But everybody has someone ruling over them and serves something. The truth is they serve those who hate them. Man is a slave to heathen society today.

Generation after generation learns the way of the heathen, who's knowledge and thought process is twisted. That takes them further and further from God. Every generation, although not every person in that generation, gets further and further from God. It's part of the wrath of God. People go against God for so long and God turns them over, lets them go their own way. This is the wrath we read of in Romans 1.

The cycle is this; you reject God, vanity follows, which is emptiness, futility. You stay in the vanity long

enough, you become spiritually blind. You no longer even know that you are living your life in vanity. Then, their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise means self deception and ignorance. Each of these things; rejection of God, vanity, spiritual blindness, self deception and ignorance; has the consequence of becoming a further reason for the wrath of God. It just brings more of the wrath of God. This is a cycle of digression.

A lack of knowledge of God leads to a manifestation of deception and ignorance. What is sad is not just that they're ignorant, but they see themselves as intelligent. As a result, they trust more and more in themselves, which takes them further off course. Proverbs 14:12 says, "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, ...*" meaning in man's own thought process, it seems right. The truth is, "*... but the end thereof [are] the ways of death*" Notice it doesn't say, 'IS the way of death of death', which is true, it says something that is far more. The end thereof ARE the WAYS of death. Man's way results in several things, several ways; all these ways lead to death. It's a digression.

When this happens, everything is out of order. Almost everything in the United States is backwards. This nation has lost its collective mind. It's now wrong for only citizens of the United States to vote in a political election. That's amazing. Why don't we send ballots to China and let them vote too? Everything in the family is out of order. When this continues long enough, people think this is order, this is how it should be. The perversion of the mindset is almost beyond belief. If we didn't know what Romans 1 teaches and what the Bible teaches, it would be almost beyond belief.

When man gives a wrong place to God, he ALWAYS gives a wrong place to himself. The result is everything is out of whack, out of order. But they go on professing themselves to be wise. "We're so intelligent." Professing themselves to be wise, they **became** fools.

This is the second time this word "*became*" shows up here in Romans 1. Verse 21 says, "*Because that, when they*

knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations." "They became" means to pass from one state into another. In verse, 21, they became vain in their imaginations. They had a natural consciousness of God, but they moved from that and became vain in their imaginations, they became unthankful, foolish. They professed themselves to be wise, and they became. They moved from one state to another.

Here in Romans 1:22, they **became** fools. They moved from one bad place to a worse place. They moved from the bad place of being vain in their imaginations, their foolish heart was darkened, professing themselves to be wise, to a worse place of being fools. They moved from one state to another. They further digressed into foolishness. But, it says much more than that. They digress into foolishness, that's true, but it's more than that, they became fools. You can do a foolish thing and not be a fool, but you keep doing foolish things and guess what? You *are* a fool. They not only digress into foolish things, they are fools. What does that mean? It means they will continue to do foolish things.

As we have pointed out in other messages, the Greek word here, translated as "fool", is "moraino". It's where we get our English word "moron." They became morons. A synonym for morons is idiots. They became idiots. It's pretty accurate today to say, "Those people are a bunch of idiots." Some other synonyms are ignoramuses, imbeciles, nitwits, dingbats, numskulls; the list goes on and on. This is what they become, what they are. They profess themselves to be wise, but they are fools, because God has let them go, let them proceed in their own ways. That has resulted in "They became fools". That's where we are today.

All of these things are the reasons for this wrath of God. They became fools, which furthers the process of secularization. That which is secular of course is that which is worldly and opposite of God. Secularization is that which brings us to that point of the secular. It's sad to watch God's people fall into the process of secularization. When you're in

that process, it doesn't take long to result in you becoming secular. That's where we are today.

Nobody in their wildest imagination can say that this is a Godly nation. You have to be sound asleep to believe that. This is a secular nation. Are there people in this nation who are spiritual? Of course there are. That doesn't, however, make us a Godly nation. "Well, we say 'God bless America' and our coins say 'In God We Trust'." You can profess anything, but it doesn't make it so. It doesn't make it a fact.

They become fools, which furthers the process of secularization, which brings more of the wrath of God upon a society. There you are again, in that cycle. That's why things continue to get worse and worse. God's people who have fallen into this mind set, say, "We just need to be more politically active. We need to elect the right people." Yes, that's true. We need to elect good people. I don't deny that. However, the order is wrong. What we really need to do is trust God and lean upon God, draw from God. We need to realize we are not citizens of this country, we are citizens of heaven. We need to live as citizens of heaven, being a testimony to those who have become fools. We need to try to explain to them the word of God. It's frustrating to talk to them because it's like talking to a wall. Nevertheless, that's what we have to do.

We have to continue living for the Lord, continue trusting the Lord, realizing which direction we're headed, but also realizing the point to which we are coming is the coming of the Lord. We need to act like citizens of heaven, and not be sucked in by the process of secularization. God help us as we live in these times.

People get discouraged. We all do. But really, that should not be the case. We ought to become more and more encouraged, because we are getting closer and closer to the coming of the Lord. We ought to be anticipating the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In looking at Romans 1:22, we read, "*Professing themselves to be wise, they became [They digress] fools.*" Verse 21 is the first mention of "they become" something. They pass from one state into another. In verse 22 they pass from their vain imaginations and their foolish heart being darkened to professing themselves to be wise, digressing into that they become fools.

This furthers the process of secularization, which is the process of separating from the Lord and His word. It IS a process of removing the influence of God and His word. We have shown that the process had already begun before most of us were even born.

It's the process of removing biblical faith, biblical morals and biblical values from the public arena. It's the process of moving from absolutes to relativism. Actually, we are not in the process, because we have a secular society. We live in a secular nation. We have gotten there through the process of secularization, which is the process of moving towards acceptance and tolerance and non-judgmentalism of what is condemned by God.

A brother in the Lord was talking about right and left, meaning politically, right of center, and left of center. We ought to be right of right. I don't know of a single true conservative in the political arena, of those who are considered conservatives. None of them go far enough. We need to be right of right. We ought not to be afraid to be right of right, either.

Professing themselves to be wise, they become fools. That is a self proclaimed wisdom, it is a worldly and carnal wisdom. In their self proclaimed wisdom, people spew out such philosophies as manifested in the humanist manifestos. There are three of them. Humanist Manifesto I, II, and III, published in 1933, 1973, and 2003, respectively. The logo of the humanist manifestos is "Good with a God". It goes on to say, "Advocating progressive values ..." Their progressive values lead to no values. "Advocating progressive values and equality ..." You hear that a lot. "... equality for humanists, atheists, and freethinkers." That's how they

identify themselves. "We're freethinkers." No, they are not. Their thinking is controlled by Satan.

Manifesto I says, "The Manifesto is a product of many minds." That is supposed to be impressive, by the way. "It was designed to represent a developing point of view, ..." "The time has come for widespread recognition of the radical changes in religious beliefs throughout the modern world. The time is past for mere revision ..." That is, they want to go beyond revision. "... of traditional attitudes." It's important that we know these things, because when you hear these people talk, you recognize where they are coming from.

"Science and economic change have disrupted the old beliefs. Religions the world over are under the necessity of coming to terms with new conditions ..." In other words, they **HAVE TO** come to terms with new conditions. "... created by a vastly increased knowledge ..." Meaning, we are smarter than the old belief system of God's word. We have advanced past God's word in our knowledge. "... and experience. In every field of human activity, the vital movement is now in the direction of a candid and explicit humanism." What they are stating there is they are moving in the directions of the human and not God. That's what that means.

This was written in 1933. "There is great danger of a final, and we believe a fatal identification of the word religion with doctrines and methods which have lost their significance and which are powerless to solve the problem of human living in the Twentieth Century." That line says a lot. It's fatal. That is why they have absolutely no tolerance for the word of God. People ask that all the time. We're supposed to be tolerant of their opinions but listen to the left, they're not tolerant. They are the most intolerant group of people on this earth. Why is that? Because they believe what God's people believe is what? *Fatal!* If something is fatal to my family, that is an enemy. That makes us, God's people, the enemy, an object of hatred, because in their mind a Bible belief system is fatal and it's powerless.

They say it's powerless to solve the problems of human living in the Twentieth Century. Oh, they are doing a great job solving the human problem, aren't they. "Religions have always been means for realizing the highest values of life." But, according to the humanists, we have passed the time for and moved beyond that. "*Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.*"

At the beginning where the manifesto said, "This is the product of many minds", it certainly is. "*Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.*"

Humanist Manifesto I goes on to declare fifteen tenets. (You can look these manifestos up on the internet, and you can read them for yourself.) In these tenets, you will find such statements as, "The distinction between the sacred and the secular can no longer be maintained." "Religious Humanism considers the complete realization of human personality to be the end of man's life ..." That's man's goal. The human is the focus. "... and seeks its development and fulfillment in the here and now."

It goes on to say, "In the place of the old attitudes involved in worship and prayer the humanist finds his religious emotions expressed in a heightened sense [Again, they have moved beyond God.] of personal life and in a cooperative effort to promote social well-being." "It follows that there will be no uniquely religious emotions and attitudes of the kind hitherto associated with belief in the supernatural." "Man will learn to face the crises of life in terms of his knowledge ..." We face our problems not in the terms of God, because they believe God is powerless to solve man's problems of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. So man learns to face the crises of life in terms of his knowledge.

"Reasonable ... attitudes will be fostered by education and supported by custom." "Believing that religion must work increasingly for joy in living, religious humanists aim to foster the creative in man and to encourage achievements that add to the satisfactions of life." It's an achievement if it gives you satisfaction. That's what that is saying.

"Religious humanism maintains that all associations and institutions exist for the fulfillment of human life." It's pretty sad when a humanist talks about the fulfillment of human life and are the same individuals that kill babies. That's a pretty sad statement. "The intelligent evaluation ..." Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools and now they talk about intelligent evaluation. "... transformation, control, and direction of such associations and institutions with a view to the enhancement of human life is the purpose and program of humanism." The enhancement of human life, but it's good without God. Life is never enhanced without God.

"Certainly religious institutions, their ritualistic forms, ecclesiastical methods, and communal activities must be reconstituted as rapidly as experience allows, in order to function effectively in the modern world." This, again, is still "Humanist Manifesto I" from 1933. The process was beginning. They began to put these people in the schools and now they're just about all that's in them. Not everybody in the schools have been brainwashed with humanism, but the vast majority have been. They may not even identify themselves as a humanist. They may not even know what a humanist is. However, that's the line they are in. That is their thinking.

It's important that we are at least aware of the agenda of humanists, because you can hear it in almost every conversation you have with people out in the world. It's there. Their brains have been saturated with it.

Romans 1, professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, shows us where we are. We can get a little better understanding of why people think the way they think. You say to most people, "That's humanistic." They will ask, "What do you mean by that?" What an opportunity to tell them. Many have no idea what humanism is.

Chapter 5 - Rejection of God - Part 10

NOTE: An audio recording for the lesson covering some aspects of Humanist Manifesto II is missing. However, from the short review given here in and reading the section on "Religion" in Humanist Manifesto II, you can still learn about what was covered. The Humanist Manifesto II section on "Religion" has been included below.

Continuing with our look at humanism, it is important that we understand the times in which we live. It is important that we understand the foundations, the roots of humanism, because we are a humanistic society. In 1933 the first of the three Humanist Manifestos was written. That was not the beginning of humanism. It began in the garden with Satan's approach to Eve. "Thou shall be as Gods." That's humanism, and it's not new. Humanism has manifested itself throughout history, with Nazi Germany being a good example of an evil humanistic empire. I believe humanism is probably more evident in our day than any other time. Most people are humanists and do not even know it. Many of God's people are as well and deny it, but it's a fact.

In the last lesson, we looked at Humanist Manifesto II, under the heading of religion. Basically, they believe that religion is in the way, religion is outdated, religion does a disservice to mankind. As you understand the tenets of humanism, you can begin to understand their hatred of truth, where this hatred comes from. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.

Humanist Manifesto II: Religion

"FIRST: In the best sense, religion may inspire dedication to the highest ethical ideals. The cultivation of moral devotion and creative imagination is an expression of genuine "spiritual" experience and aspiration. We believe, however, that traditional dogmatic or authoritarian religions that place revelation, God, ritual, or creed above human needs and experience do a disservice to the human species. Any account of nature should pass the tests of scientific evidence; in our judgment, the dogmas and myths of traditional religions do not do so. Even at this late date in human history, certain

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elementary facts based upon the critical use of scientific reason have to be restated. We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; it is either meaningless or irrelevant to the question of survival and fulfillment of the human race. As nontheists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity. Nature may indeed be broader and deeper than we now know; any new discoveries, however, will but enlarge our knowledge of the natural.

“Some humanists believe we should reinterpret traditional religions and reinvest them with meanings appropriate to the current situation. Such redefinitions, however, often perpetuate old dependencies and escapisms; they easily become obscurantist, impeding the free use of the intellect. We need, instead, radically new human purposes and goals.

“We appreciate the need to preserve the best ethical teachings in the religious traditions of humankind, many of which we share in common. But we reject those features of traditional religious morality that deny humans a full appreciation of their own potentialities and responsibilities. Traditional religions often offer solace to humans, but, as often, they inhibit humans from helping themselves or experiencing their full potentialities. Such institutions, creeds, and rituals often impede the will to serve others. Too often traditional faiths encourage dependence rather than independence, obedience rather than affirmation, fear rather than courage. More recently they have generated concerned social action, with many signs of relevance appearing in the wake of the “God Is Dead” theologies. But we can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species. While there is much that we do not know, humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.

“SECOND: Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. They distract humans from present concerns, from self-actualization, and from rectifying social injustices. Modern science discredits such historic concepts as the “ghost in the machine” and the “separable soul.” Rather, science affirms that the human species is an emergence from natural evolutionary forces. As far as we know, the total personality is a function of the biological organism transacting in a social and cultural context. There is no credible evidence that life survives the death of the body. We continue to exist in our progeny and in the way that our lives have influenced others in our culture.

“Traditional religions are surely not the only obstacles to

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human progress. Other ideologies also impede human advance. Some forms of political doctrine, for instance, function religiously, reflecting the worst features of orthodoxy and authoritarianism, especially when they sacrifice individuals on the altar of Utopian promises. Purely economic and political viewpoints, whether capitalist or communist, often function as religious and ideological dogma. Although humans undoubtedly need economic and political goals, they also need creative values by which to live."

(This marks the end of the review of the missing audio recording.)

Continuing with the current lesson; It's sad when a humanist or a politician talks about ethics. It just goes through me when a politician starts talking and using the word morality. In Humanist Manifesto II, under the heading of "Ethics", they say, "We affirm that moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous ..." That means independent of the Bible or any standard. "... and situational ..." In other words, the situation determines what is ethical. "... needing no theological or ideological sanction." The book of Judges says that every man did that which was right in his own eyes. "Ethics stems from human need and interest." So, to humanists, ethics are autonomous, situational, not needing any theological or ideological sanction; and they stem from human needs and interests. This is what determines ethics. It goes on to say, "To deny this distorts the whole basis of life." When you and I declare the word of God as a standard of truth, in their eyes, we are attacking the whole basis of life. That makes us an enemy.

Continuing on, "Human life has meaning because we create and develop our futures. Happiness ..." Happiness ... that's humorous as well, because anytime they talk about happiness, they need to tell their face. "Happiness and the creative realization of human needs and desires, individually and in shared enjoyment, are continuous themes of humanism." Happiness is the continuous theme of humanism. But, there is no happiness outside of God. "We strive for the good life, here and now." What is "the good life"? Happiness.

They go on to say, "Reason and intelligence ..." Any time someone who has become a fool talks about reason and intelligence is scary. "Reason and intelligence are the most effective instruments that humankind possesses. There is no substitute ..." THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR REASON? The problem is they can't reason. There is no substitute for intelligence. They go on to explain, "neither faith nor passion [Zeal, religious in this case] suffices in itself. The controlled use of scientific methods, which have transformed the natural and social sciences since the Renaissance, must be extended further in the solution of human problems." They are saying that science is the remedy for human problems. Science! There's where reason and intelligence comes in. "But reason must be tempered by humility, since no group has a monopoly of wisdom or virtue. Nor is there any guarantee that all problems can be solved or all questions answered. Yet critical intelligence, infused by a sense of human caring, is the best method that humanity has for resolving problems." The best remedy is intelligence and caring. "Reason should be balanced with compassion and empathy and the whole person fulfilled." The goal is that the whole person be fulfilled.

It goes on to make these statements under the heading of "The Individual". "The preciousness and dignity of the individual person is a central humanist value." That is a bold faced lie. They talk about the preciousness and dignity of the person. They know nothing about the preciousness and dignity of human life. That is proven by their stance on abortion. But, they say it is a central humanist value.

"Individuals should be encouraged to realize their own creative talents and desires." The problem is when you deny God, your talents and desires are going in the wrong direction, pointing towards the wrong thing. "We reject all religious, ideological, or moral codes that denigrate the individual ..." Again, we are the problem. What we believe, in their minds, denigrates individuals. In other words, we are an enemy to human kind. "... suppress freedom, dull intellect, dehumanize personality." Personality means

humanity. They believe we dehumanize humanity. By simply standing for the truth, we suppress freedom, and we dehumanize personality.

"We believe in maximum individual autonomy consonant with social responsibility." Maximum individual autonomy is a scary statement. "Although science can account for the causes of behavior," I didn't know that science can account for causes of behaviour. "... the possibilities of individual freedom of choice exist in human life and should be increased." In other words, man is autonomous and he should have the right to do whatever he pleases, whatever he wants. Furthermore, no one has the right to infringe upon his right.

They go on to say, under the heading of "The Individual", "In the area of sexuality, we believe that intolerant attitudes," That's you and I, speaking of adultery and fornication. "... often cultivated by orthodox religions and puritanical cultures, unduly repress sexual conduct. The right to birth control, abortion, and divorce should be recognized. While we do not approve of exploitive, denigrating forms of sexual expression, neither do we wish to prohibit, by law or social sanction, sexual behavior between consenting adults. The many varieties of sexual exploration should not in themselves be considered "evil." Short of harming others or compelling them to do likewise, individuals should be permitted to express their sexual proclivities and pursue their lifestyles as they desire." That shouldn't be surprising. We see that all around us.

"We wish to cultivate the development of a responsible attitude toward sexuality," The problem is that when you reject God, the word responsible kind of dies. Furthermore, since everyone is autonomous, everyone has a different definition of what is responsible. "... in which humans are not exploited as sexual objects," The very ones who exploit humans as sexual objects have the audacity to say something against it.

"... and in which intimacy, sensitivity, respect, and honesty in interpersonal relations are encouraged. Moral

education for children and adults ..." In the context, this would be referring to sexual education. One of the greatest tragedies in our country is turning over to the public schools. sexual education. "Well, who's responsible for that?" Mom and dad. The problem is today, mom and dad don't have any sense. "Moral education for children and adults is an important way of developing awareness and sexual maturity." Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.

In Humanist Manifesto III, it is stated in the introduction, "Humanism is a progressive ..." Humanist Manifesto III uses the word "progressive" quite often. We hear that word all the time, now. Continuing, "... a progressive philosophy of life ..." The very word progressive is deceptive. They put that out there and people think, "Wow! Things are improving. We're heading in the right direction." Nothing could be further from the truth. "... a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernaturalism ...," that means without God, "... affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment ..." There it is again, personal fulfillment, personal happiness. "... that aspire to the greater good of humanity."

You look at humanism, and ask yourself the question, "Are we headed towards the greater good? Have things gotten better?" You'd have to be a fool to think things are better and better than they have ever been.

It is also stated in Humanist Manifesto III, "Knowledge of the world is derived by observation, experimentation, and rational analysis. Humanists find that science is the best method for determining this knowledge as well as for solving problems and developing beneficial technologies. We also recognize the value of new departures in thought, the arts, and inner experience—each subject to analysis by critical intelligence."

"Humans are an integral part of nature, the result of unguided evolutionary change." Again, they think we are progressing. "Humanists recognize nature as self-existing.

We accept our life as all and enough, distinguishing things as they are from things as we might wish or imagine them to be."

With regard to ethics, "Ethical values are derived from human need and interest ... shaped by human circumstances, interests, and concerns and extended to the global ecosystem and beyond." Humanist Manifesto III addresses one world government over and over and over again. They don't use that exact phrase, "one world government", but it's everywhere. "*Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.*"

There is no right or wrong. We must be tolerant, accepting of that which is abominable to God. That's what they want us to think. This thought process has affected God's people. It's sad because a lot of God's people don't think they have the right to speak out on something. But, you do and you should. Even if they take that right away, which is coming, you should speak out. "Well, I don't want to upset ..." That's humanism. You're caught, you're trapped.

Humanism has greatly affected God's people. One could preach a message on humanism in the Lord's churches. People do not necessarily recognize it, nevertheless, it's there. We need to train ourselves to recognize it so we can be cautious and be aware of the danger all around us.