

[Romans 1:21 – 32]

~ Charles Darwin published a book in 1859 entitled '*On the Origin of Species*.' It suggested a new level of thinking that radically altered the world's then-current view of science, education and organized religion. Within a few short decades, many denominations had completely rejected the Biblical account of creation. Adam and Eve were relegated to mythology; and reduced to symbolism of man's ascent from primordial slime to reasonable, thinking organisms. From that time forward, man has declared himself capable of moving onward and upward towards a brave new world! Well, this report from our Spiritual Safari will dispute and debunk that notion. Fasten your seatbelts tightly for this leg of our expedition, friends; because the safari-mobile is going to drive as furiously as Jehu did in the book of second Kings. See, beginning at the Garden of Eden, mankind descended downward into the cesspool of filth, depravity and perversion that constituted Roman society in Paul's day. And that's where we are today – except we're *ten times* worse.

I teach the sound doctrine of the apostles from the Word of God revealing the truth of mankind, creation and God's *ONLY* remedy for sin and our coming judgment. I am not popular, I am not well-supported and, quite frankly, I am not interested in you agreeing with me. If you want to learn the Bible properly, correctly and completely, then you have found the right resource. If you want to dabble and dabble in some feel-good religious philosophy, then you have a whole lot of idiot's social media posts to go choose from. If you only tolerate certain sections of Scripture, or if you want to use the Bible as a looking-glass to view other people's faults – but not as a mirror to see *YOURSLEF* – I *HIGHLY* suggest you skip this report. Maybe you'll want to go fishing or have cocktails with some friends?

Paul establishes a premise that man is a hopelessly lost sinner in God's eyes before he even mentions the word salvation. No attempt whatsoever is made to prove the point of sin. Our previous report brought a stark realization of the universal fact man is a totally depraved, inhumane, perverted, fraudulent, flawed, lying creature. There *IS* an ecumenical

movement today, but it's *NOT* towards the True and Living God. Oh, no, my friends – the current ecumenical movement is an utter turning *AWAY* from God. They're not interested in meeting around the Person of Christ. The entire world stands guilty before God right now as you read this report and I write it; but they don't accept that as Bible truth. Mankind needs a righteousness we can never supply in and of ourselves; and the ecumenical movement believes they *ARE* said righteousness.

Further, God will not save us by perfection because we aren't perfect. God cannot save man in man's imperfection because He is Holy! If God had not stepped in and provided man a way to salvation, the human race would be lost forevermore. The measure of salvation is the measure of sin! He who is forgiven much loves much. Your view of yourself determines what you think of Christ as your Savior and Lord; and as God Himself. If you are self-sufficient, you won't need Jesus for much, if anything. It's more likely He will only interfere with your life. Only when one sees themselves in need of a Savior will they turn to Jesus Christ. That is *ALL* important to comprehend.

Paul never makes any attempt to prove man is a sinner; he merely states obvious facts revealing it as truth. Paul has already said there is a natural revelation of God in the thinking of man. Nature alone has enough in it to keep man on track with God, quite frankly. Nature reveals the power of God very definitely. Nature alone should bring man to the place where he bows before God and worships Him as the Creator, but it doesn't. If man would accept God, man would discover a very special revelation in Him. That revelation can only be found in the Word of God; which leads us to our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus came to earth, entered humanity, became as one of us, walked the roads we walk in a humanity equal to ours; experiencing our weaknesses and suffering. And God did that to demonstrate His love for us.

Interestingly, the love of God is *NEVER* found in nature. The poet may babble about babbling brooks until he is blue in the face; but most brooks that babble in the summer freeze hard in the winter! You cannot sit down and meditate meaningfully on hard frozen water! Nature is not a warm, kind, friendly entity by any means. Nature is, in fact, extremely cruel and unforgiving. In the Grand Canyon, or on the cliffs in modern day Turkey,

you can take just one wrong step into eternity! God's unforgiving law of gravity will prevail. The reason is because the love of God is revealed in *ONE* place – nowhere else – at the cross of Christ!

If you could convince me God was just a spectator in a finite universe, and all He did was create it and drop off some literature that said, "*good luck figuring it all out*" – then I would be prepared to throw my Bible in the garbage can and start killing other people for a living. Thank God He didn't do that; and that He had a plan to reveal His love for me – and *YOU*, too, by the way, my little sinful friend. We have some glorious jewels of truth here that we are going to attempt to mine in our next several reports....

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

~ Paul is speaking of those who *DID* have natural revelation from God. As I write these reports in Romans, I feel I am standing on the fringe of wisdom – looking in – and I feel incapable of conveying the entire spectrum of light as it should be. If you examine the previous three verses carefully, you'll discover there are seven steps that mankind took *DOWN* from the Garden of Eden. There has *NEVER* been any such thing as upward mobility in man through some sort of imagined evolution. This verse contradicts all theories and hypothesis of any manufactured evolution. Mankind is *NOT* ascending physically, he is *not* improving morally, he is *not* inclining intellectually, and mankind is *not* growing spiritually, either! To profess any of those true is neither credible nor worthy of thoughtful consideration. The natural pull of humanity and the natural tendency of the human race is *DOWNWARD*! If anything, we need a theory of de-evolution.

See, there was a time when mankind knew God and was close to Him – as verses twenty-one, twenty-two and twenty-three reference. Now, I realize what I am teaching totally contradicts the Einstein-Rosen Bridge, Bifrost, Rainbow Arch Bridge Theory, disambiguation, and every single anthology of religion known to mankind that begin with man in a primitive condition; and it goes against all historical teachings that begin humanity with a very low intellectual condition but somehow elevated himself to super-genius status and began to seek God. It's laughable. Now, I am not some intellectual giant, but I can tell you man is moving *AWAY* from God today. Right *NOW*, the world is further from God than it has ever been at any point in recorded history.

Interestingly, every primitive tribe and ancient civilization discovered contains a recorded tradition concerning God. Dr. Vincent stated the following: *".... I think it can be proven from facts that any given people down throughout the line of time from the lowest savages has at every period of its life known FAR MORE than it has done; has known quite enough to enable it to have gotten along comfortably and driven and developed rightly if it had only done what no man does: all that it knew it ought to do and could do. No people have EVER lived up to the light that they had!"*

When a man will not give God His proper place in his life, that man invariably begins to believe he has become self-sufficient. It doesn't surprise me at all that man has made the announcement God is dead. Interestingly, they didn't make that proclamation until very recently in history. Today, man has turned from God and sets himself up as his own god. Ingratitude towards God is likely the second most dangerous sin there is. Shakespeare said, *".... I hate ingratitude more in a man than lying, stealing, cheating, vainness, babbling, drunkenness or any taint or vice!"* How do you think God sees ingratitude? The ten lepers were healed, but only *ONE* came back to thank Jesus.

Mankind revealed the depth of his vanity when the ridiculously unsustainable hypothesis of evolution was manufactured; and debased, sick-minded people cling to it. There have been myriad philosophies about the creation of the world. One of those more crazy theories say the world is

help up on an elephants back and the four feet of the elephant stands on four turtles; but they casually leave out whatever the four turtles rest on. Evolution is equally as incredulous – and one is just as good as the other – and they date matter into some unknown reaches of time until the thinking becomes totally irrelevant. Then, they reduce it all down to a miniscule protoplasm billions of years ago that is allegedly on the same par as an atom; and they say from that came everything.

How stupid can we be? We don't want to know the answer to that. I think the world resting on an elephant resting on who-knows-what holds more scientific credibility than evolution, personally. We could incorporate the myth of Atlas holding the earth up on his shoulders. Perhaps Atlas stood on the elephant that stood on the turtles that didn't stand on anything? Well, either way, this is not satisfactory thinking to reasonable people. There is no foundation in any other religion. Christ is our Foundation! When one removes Christ from their thinking, they become vain in their imagination.

When man's imaginations become governed by such elevated levels of vanity, God allows that man's foolish heart to become darkened. The movement into the darkness of paganism is an ancient progression that continues today. All you have to do is walk down the streets of Cairo, Egypt, Istanbul – or Orlando, Florida – to know the foolish heart of mankind is *TOTALLY* in the dark. Man thinks he is wise when he is an utter fool. Of course, the fool hath said in his heart there is no God! The word for "*fool*" means "*insane!*" People proclaim at the top of their lungs there is no God; well, I am here to tell you those atheists are either insincere or they are insane – it's one of the two.

When those downward steps are complete, man will change the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man. The unsaved world has myriad caricatures of God. Consider the images and idols of the heathen; each of them are ugly and frightful renderings. The Roman city of Ephesus was the epicenter of culture and refinement. Yet, at the heart of Ephesus was the most horrible image imaginable to mankind. That image was located in a temple designated one of the Seven Wonders of the World – the temple of Artemus – and the image was of Diana. Not the beautiful and lovely image of Diana the moon goddess found in Greek

art, though; no, this Diana is the “*multi-breasted one*” who emulated the oriental Sybil. This Diana had a trident in one hand a club in the other. If she couldn’t impale your heart, she would simply beat you to death! She wasn’t nice – she was brutal. She wasn’t beautiful; she was repulsive to behold.

Well, that’s the concept of God mustered up by refined culture in Ephesus. Man-made gods are hideous and grotesque images. Female principle, the worship of prostitution, and gross immorality took place regularly in and around the temple. Dishonesty of the lowest magnitude was the norm. What the Ephesians were doing was turning the glory of incorruptible God into an image made by and of corruptible man – actually, woman in this case – which is even worse.

Slander and defamation against the True and Living Most High God Almighty by unbelievers doesn’t trouble their conscience at all. The Greeks, Assyrians and the Babylonians and the other pagans make their gods like men and birds and animals. The only god man can imagine is never flattering. See, man did not begin in idolatry; the savage and primitive man are not the same! Primitive man was monotheistic, and idolatry came along *MUCH* later. The first example of idolatry we can trace is in connection with Rachel when she stole her father’s idols. Ever since that day, man has spiraled downward – not upward – and I simply cannot stress that fact enough.

Sir William Ramsey was an unbeliever who, at one time later in his life, confessed that no secular writing or artistic rendering supported the assumptions of religious theory. In fact, they only confirm what Paul wrote in the epistle to the Romans: that the history of religion among men is that of *degeneration*. If you consider the state of the modern church, but still have doubts about its declining condition, then I will have to assume you are insincere. Apostasy abounds; and it’s incumbent upon you and me to stand against it.

Gross immorality and turning away from the Living and True God is the reason our modern-day poverty and health programs are bankrupting the average citizen and our country, in general; while bringing no benefits or improvement to society. Our programs do absolutely no good for the poor.

The liberal insists practicality refrain from introducing Christianity; but the only practical and prudent correction for the problems mankind is experiencing would be to return to a proper, correct and complete instruction in the commands of Christ. There is no other solution to our problems. I suggest we figure out how to get back to God's way as a nation....

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

~ Three times in this chapter we read "God gave them up!" When the Lord repeats something *THREE* times, I have to believe He is serious. To understand exactly how far man can go in abject immorality, visit the local strip club in your city. There's one on every corner. Sex is the core of perversion in every strata of society, my beloved; and those people love money. They are a recipe of depravity. Many churches are buying into it today, too. Instead of a hardline condemnation against sexual perversions, the church wants to soft peddle damning problems such as living together outside of marriage, homosexuality and child molestation; and they accept those sins. Well, God says He gave them up; because they changed the truth of God into a lie....

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

~ Passions of dishonor and disgrace conclude this leg of our Spiritual Safari. I warned this report would be a bad trip; and we're not through yet. Irrespective of the label we assign our rot of self-righteousness it is, in a word, depravity. Public opinion from a debased politician's mind is not worthy of thoughtful consideration. Debauchery was prevalent in Greek life at the time in which we are studying, and it brought the end of their civilization, friends. You can just write that down – again. If you want to know how far they declined, visit them today. Their economy is collapsed, the people live in a substandard condition, the glory that was once the intellectual capital of the world is *D-E-A-D*! Everything they once were has passed away with little trace. See, they did that which was unseemly.

Anyone who thinks they can embrace perversion and live in the mire of sin today are only kidding themselves. The only deliverance from a rat-infested mind and putrefied soul is turning to the Lord Jesus Christ. If you do not turn to Him today, He might give *YOU* up! Those who live such a lifestyle are filled with *ALL* unrighteousness – don't kid yourself. Every aspect of their existence is infected with spiritual death and decay.

This chapter ends with an ugly and horrible list that I am not going to expound on – although I could – but this report would become unreadable at this point if I did. This list is what people are doing every single day in my city – and in yours, too! Just pick up any newspaper or magazine and skim

the headlines to find every single sin mentioned right here. This is what mankind does *NATURALLY!* How much longer will God tolerate us and continue to be patient with us? God has judged much greater civilizations of the past that went in the wrong direction and who were, actually, better than the disgusting group of perverts called Americans, my friends. And don't say "*.... I agree with you, Andrew; the underworld is terrible - but we are good and lovely churchy Christians who please God by being so nice and sweet and moral.*" Because some of the meanest people I have ever met are church members, and I have a *WHOLE LOT* of church experience, my friends.

Alright, We're going to stop here before I lose total readership. However, in our next report, we begin in chapter two by considering how God judges self-righteous and piously religious people. On second thought, let me just caution everyone – I do not recommend anyone read any more of my reports – ever. The man on top of the hill looking down on the person at the bottom and thinking something should be done for that poor person – but doesn't get involved, is not going to fare well reading the rest of my reports in Romans. Chances are the man at the bottom of the hill will see his needs, but those at the top won't. Religious people, self-righteous people – so called *GOOD* people – desperately need a Savior. I have warned you about future reports; but, if you need some strong medicine – continue with us on our expedition through the entire Word of God ~