

# ROMANS 06 – 1:21-28

## *The Decline of Man*

### 1. 1:21

- a. Knowing God was not the problem, their lack of worship was – Exo 20:1-5
- b. People only rise to the level of their god; a thankless people is a godless people
- c. “vain imaginations” – worship men, women, sex, sin, things, animals Rom 1:23
- d. Unsaved man’s imagination is inspired by evil – Gen 6:5, 8:21, 11:6
- e. Without God man became vain, ignorant, blind, bad works – Eph 4:17-18
- f. “heart was darkened” which is the opposite of how the world sees it.
- g. Darkened = darkness and ignorance was our fault, not God’s

### 2. 1:22-23

- a. The world says we are getting better and religion is remnant of ancient man
- b. Declaring there is no God, they now seek to find him = foolish
- c. They changed the glory of God deliberately because of their sin – Isa 40:6-8
- d. Idol worship = creation worship; Roman gods were glorified men – 1 Cor 12:2
- e. History of religion declares the foolishness of the “wise” Greeks /Roman “virtue”
- f. Cicero, Plato, Aristotle, declared virtues but failed to live them (pederasty)

### 3. 1:24-25

- a. Sin is the result of pursuing the lusts of our own hearts – 1 John 2:15-16
- b. “dishonour their own bodies” – pursuing their own passions proved unclean
- c. 1) did not thank God; 2) changed his glory; 3) changed the truth of God; 4) sin
- d. Bad doctrine breeds bad behavior – 1 Cor 15:33
- e. When the truth is made into a lie – then all sorts of false worship can be justified
- f. The Creator made all things by Jesus Christ – Col 1:15-17, Eph 3:9, Rom 16:27

### 4. 1:26-27

- a. They did not want to worship God with their bodies, heart, or mind – 1:24,26,28
- b. “vile affections” turns out to be all sorts of fornication and sexual sin – 1 Cor 6:19
- c. There are things natural and things unnatural; sin is not natural – 1 Cor 11:14
- d. Homosexuality is an invented word to justify wickedness – Lev 18:22-28, Gen 19:5-7
- e. Sodomy – Gen 19:5; of which the greatest philosophers participated: Socrates Plato Zeno
- f. Their gods were filthy, but scholars call it “studying the classics” and “ancient literature”
- g. “recompense” - sin is self-destructive → Gal 6:7, Jer 6:19

### 5. 1:28

- a. “They did not like to retain God” – which explains the hostility of the world
- b. God gave us up and over to our own reprobate condition –
- c. We are all reprobates without Christ, without God – 2 Cor 13:5
- d. The condition is hopeless, but people will glory in their own putridity – Eph 2:12