

# The Journey Away from God

Romans 1:19-32

## Introduction:

- A. Paul shows why all men need the gospel (cf. 3:10, 23)
  - 1. Gentiles (chapter 1).
  - 2. Jews (chapter 2)
- B. Paul chronicles the Gentiles journey away from God.
  - 1. Once knew God (cf. Noah)
  - 2. Went so far away that God gave them up (vv. 24, 26, 28).
- C. Paul describes four stages of the journey away from God.

## Discussion:

- I. They Disrespected God (v. 21).**
  - A. Knowledge without respect.
  - B. Failure to glorify Him *as God*.
    - 1. By ignoring his position and authority.
    - 2. By attitudes toward worship and service (cf. Mal. 1:11-13)
    - 3. By living ungodly (1 Cor. 6:18-20)
  - C. Failure to be thankful.
    - 1. For blessings
    - 2. For talents.
    - 3. For opportunities.
    - 4. Use them or lose them (Mt.. 25:27-29).
- II. They Suppressed God (vv. 28-31)**
  - A. Unbelief not due to lack of evidence (cf. v. 20).
  - B. Had to suppress knowledge to practice sin.
- III. They Replaced God (v. 21-25).**
  - A. Replaced the rule of God with:
    - 1. Own wisdom (vv. 21-22)
    - 2. Own lusts (v. 24).
  - B. Replaced worship of God with idolatry (v. 23-25)
  - C. God replaced today in more subtle ways:
    - 1. Humanism.
    - 2. Materialism.
    - 3. Hedonism.
- IV. They Defied God (v. 32).**
  - A. Continued in sin, knowing the consequences (cf. Rom. 6:23)
  - B. Approve of others who practice them (NKJ).

## Conclusion:

- A. If you still know God, glorify him while you still can (cf. Heb. 3:13; 2 Tim. 4:1-5)
- B. If you are not glorifying him — repent and turn.