

Steps from Knowing God to Hating God

Romans 1:19-32

Introduction:

- A. Gentiles had gone from “knowing God” (v. 21) to “haters of God” (v. 30).
 - 1. This why they need the gospel so badly. (vv. 16,17)
 - 2. Three times it says that “God gave them up” (vv. 24, 26,28).
- B. Gentile descended from knowing God to hating God in four gradual, but well-defined *steps*.

Discussion:

- I. *Step One: They Stopped Glorifying God.*
 - A. They did not glorify not God while they knew him. (v. 21)
 - B. We glorify God by faithful service in word and deed - Had better do it while we know Him.
 - 1. Glorify with words. (Rom. 15:6) - Sing, pray, teach and preach.
 - 2. Glorify with works. (Mt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 4:11) - First principles, assemble, L.S. Give, etc.
 - 3. Glorify with a pure life. (1 Cor. 6:20).
 - 4. Glorify him now while you can. (Heb. 2:1-3; 3:7-13; 2 Tim. 4:1-5).
- II. *Step Two: They Turned To Human Wisdom.*
 - A. Human wisdom turns to vain speculation for spiritual answers. (vv. 21-23).
 - B. Human wisdom lacks the power to save. (1 Cor. 1:21; Rom. 1:16).
 - 1. It has temporal value, but no saving or eternal value.
 - 2. Its volumes cannot equal ONE verse of scripture.
 - 3. Its sages of all time are nothing beside divine revelation. (1 Cor. 1:25).
 - 4. Its planning did not produce salvation. (Eph. 2:8,9; 3:10,11; 2 Tim. 1:9).
- III. *Step Three: They Substituted Vain Worship.*
 - A. Man seldom maintains a religious vacuum. (cf. Lk. 11:24-26).
 - 1. Neglects God, exalts self, fills vacuum with human worship.
 - 2. Rejects true object, acts or means of worship leading to substituting own.
 - B. Man tends to think more of own creation than God's (v. 25).
 - 1. Can criticize church, worship, etc.
 - 2. Do not criticize human institutions.
- IV. *Step Four: They Approved Immorality As A Way Of Life (vv. 26-32).*
 - A. Disrespect for spiritual laws lead to disrespect for moral laws - vice versa.
 - 1. Have seen apostates and digressives turn to lying and dishonor.
 - 2. When one disregards laws in one area shows outward respect for other areas a sham.
 - B. Disrespect for moral laws should be no surprise - if disregards other laws.

Conclusion:

- A. If you know God - glorify him while you still know him.
- B. If you are not glorifying Him - Repent and turn.