

➤ **We suppress the truths of God. (v. 18-20)**

Romans 1:18-20

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

"God has stitched into the fabric of the human mind his existence and power so they are instinctively recognized when viewing the created world." – Thomas Schreiner

"Human beings were made to know, worship, love, and serve the creator God. That always was and always will be the way to healthy and fruitful human living. It demands, of course, a certain kind of humility: a willingness to let God be God, to celebrate and honor him as such, and acknowledge his power in and over the world." – N.T. Wright

"I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't just that I don't believe in God and, naturally, I hope that I'm right in my belief. It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God; I don't want the universe to be like that." – Dr. Thomas Nagel, NYU professor

➤ **This opens the doorway to distorted thinking and darkened hearts. (v. 21-23)**

Romans 1:21-23

21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

"When you go against the grain of the universe, you get splinters." – H.H. Farmer

"Reality is what you run into when you are wrong." – Dallas Willard

➤ **Which manifests in a life turned in on itself. (v. 24-25)**

Romans 1:24-25

24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

sinful desires = *epithumia* = over-desire, an all-controlling drive or longing

"God's judgment on godlessness and wickedness is to give us what we want...The things we serve will not free us; rather, they control us. We *have* to have them. And, since our hearts were made to be centered on God, since he is the only true provider of satisfaction and significance, they do not satisfy—we always feel we need more, or something else. The tragedy of humanity is that we strive for and fail to find what we could simply receive and enjoy. We suppress the truth which would free and satisfy us." – Timothy Keller