

THE ROAD TO RUIN

Rom 1:18-32

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In our text there is recorded the sordid account of a people whom God gave up
- B. These were a people who progressively got worse and worse until it is said that God gave them up
- C. Text gives, step by step, this road to ruin, so let's look at it closely

DISCUSSION:

I. THEY LEFT THE LIGHT v. 21

- A. The first step on road to ruin was leaving the light
 1. Their foolish heart was darkened
 - a. Attributes clearly seen & manifest by works v. 20
 - b. Without excuse for worshipping helpless idols
 2. When one leaves the word, he embarks on hopeless course like a ship left afloat without pilot or guide
- B. God's word is a lamp to guide man Psa 119:104-105
- C. Jesus is the true light Jhn 1:4-9

II. THEY CEASED TO WORSHIP v. 21

- A. Second step on road to ruin: ceasing to worship ceased to glorify God and give thanks
 1. A frightening thing to see: failure to worship and pray is right near the top of things leading to ruin
 2. Christians careless about assembly for worship should take note they are flirting with disaster
- B. Check our attendance record! Check on some you know to see if this contributed to leaving Lord Heb 10:25

III. THEY ENGAGED IN VAIN REASONING v. 21

- A. Their third step to ruin was vain reasoning
 1. Began to reason in themselves that what they thought to be right, really was right
 2. How vain this was and how prominent today
- B. We must read again and again Jer 10:23
- C. Our hope is in Lord and his word for guidance Jhn 8:32
 1. Disciples are learners - must know the truth
 2. The gospel obeyed frees from Satan's yoke; spiritual task-masters; and fear, then fills our soul with hope

IV. THEY BECAME FOOLS v. 22

- A. Fourth step on road to ruin - made fools of themselves
 1. Their foolish heart was darkened v 21
 2. Professed to be wise but became fools v 22
 - a. Greeks and Roman heathen boasted of their wisdom and held the rest of the world in contempt
 - b. At the same time idolatry showed their utter folly
 3. The fool said: "There is no God" Psa 53:1

- B. How strikingly like conditions of today this sounds
 1. Result: when they became so wise in themselves, no longer saw the need to do what God said v 25
 2. What Jesus said about wise & foolish Matt 7:24-27
 - a. Wise man built on firm foundation
 - b. House built on rock could not be undermined or destroyed, but would stand firm
 - c. So, shall it be with those who hear and obey Psa 1:5 "They shall stand in judgment."

V. THEY MADE BAD BARGAINS vs. 23,25

- A. Fifth step on road to ruin came by making bad bargains
- B. They exchanged God for idols vs 23,25
 1. Turning from revelation of God in nature, showed they were fools by making images, like man, or lower animals, and calling it god Isa 44:9-20
 2. Greeks made gods like men. Many statues still exist taken from old Greek and Roman temples. They worshipped birds, quadrupeds and reptiles
- C. They also exchanged truth for a lie v 25
- D. It was at this point that God gave them up
- E. Someone said: when they exchanged God for idols, they got down on two legs (man); then on all fours (beasts) and finally on their belly to crawl with him who was cursed in the long ago Gen 3:14

VI. THEY BECAME IMMORAL vs. 26-32

- A. Sixth step on road to ruin was involvement in immoral activities in the vilest way (see def. of "meet")
 1. What in the catalogue of sin could now be excluded?
 2. What seemed to make matters worse was they had not completely forgotten all they had known v 32
 - a. In spite of knowledge they not only continued in their vile sins, but took pleasure in others doing them
 - b. No deeper degree of depravity can be found than when men call evil good, and cherish it Isa 5:20
 - c. The conclusion from these facts is that all such guilty persons are under condemnation
- B. Look again at their condition! what a sorry lot!

CONCLUSION:

- A. The finished product is described in v 32 What more need be said?
- B. Who is the man that cannot read and learn the end result of following this road?
- C. Yet it was for these and all others that Jesus died Rom 5:8
- D. Have you taken advantage of His provisions Rom 6:16,17