

A Fool and His Idols

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Romans 1:22-23 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Ecclesiastes 10:3 Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool.

1 Corinthians 1:20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

- I. The wise men of the world are pretenders to wisdom and knowledge.
 - A. They are not really wise – they are fools, who are pretending to be wise according to the Bible – just like these men who pretend to be women and women who pretend to be men.
 - B. Those who profess themselves to be wise are marked and identified as fools by the Scripture.
 - C. A person who is truly wise will not think himself so, but will be humble in his estimation of his own wisdom and knowledge.

Proverbs 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

- 1. The wiser a man is, the more he realizes how much he does not know.
 - 2. The more foolish a person is, the wiser they think they are.
 - 3. It is just one of the ways that sin and pride make a fool of a person.
 - D. Wisdom comes from God, and therefore those who reject God have no true wisdom, but only the earthly, sensual, devilish kind.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

James 3:13-15 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

- E. This turning from God and truth to vain imaginations and lies perverts the reasoning and blinds the mind.
 - 1. All who do this are deceived into thinking they are wise in what they have done.
 - 2. They are convinced that they are wiser than those who continue to believe the truth and submit to God.

3. This includes people who remain religious, but get educated and go liberal, but it also includes people who walk off from the church and God and become great sinners.
 4. Their perverted thinking and blinded mind makes a fool of both kinds and everyone can see it but themselves and those who are like them.
- F. The wiser they think themselves to be, the greater the depth of foolishness they fall into.
1. The ignorant barbarians worship the sun and the moon, while the great and mighty Egyptians worshipped an ox and an onion.
 2. The Greeks worshipped diseases and passions and the Romans adored stormy, turbulent, violent, female deities.
 3. The American Indians considered thunder and the moon and animals to be gods, and the Chinese worship the dragon, which represents the devil himself.

1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

- G. Man must have answers for his existence and an explanation of the universe that he sees and perceives around him.
1. They reject God and do not like to retain Him in their knowledge because of their sin, so they try to imagine God as something besides what He really is.
 2. And it always leads them away from true righteousness into confusion and a tolerance for sin before outright embracing it as a lifestyle.
- II. They changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image make like to corruptible man...
- A. To do this is to declare that you will not believe in what you cannot see.
1. Men make images so they can have something to look at which they believe represents God better than the Scriptures do.
 2. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God, but they must see with their eyes what they cannot comprehend with their blinded mind.
- B. Men make images of God to make God more like themselves in their character, since they refuse to allow themselves to become more like God in his character.
- C. It is an enormously big step down when you substitute the glory of God with an image of a man.
- D. These images are always contrary to the very character of God, which is his glory and his holiness and his justice.
1. None of them are holy, but are simply imaginations of super humans who have the power and liberty to be more immoral and evil than a mortal man or woman can in a body of flesh.
 2. All of their gods and goddesses and the stories about them revolved around their sexual escapades and their conflicts with other gods like them, with no moral boundaries or limits.
 3. How despicable in the sight of God to trade the glory of a holy, just, loving and benevolent God for religion that sanctions whoredom, drunkenness, murder, and lust!
 4. How different is all that from modern religion that makes sin acceptable, unavoidable, natural, and expected of everyone?

5. The end result is the same because what has been done with God is the same as the pagan idolaters did – his glory is turned into corruption in their minds.
- E. These “wise” men never stop with changing the perception of God into a corruptible man, they go much lower than that.

...and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

1. They look lower than themselves at the animals and imagine them to be divine.
2. They worship and consider greater than themselves, birds, fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.
3. Eagles, hawks, cows, oxen, cats, wolves, monkeys, snakes, fish, lizards, alligators and crocodiles.
4. And modern man in all his wisdom and knowledge now almost universally claims to be nothing more than an animal, who evolved from lower species, who came from nothing but the millions of marvelous chances that brought them all into existence.
5. Modern man, including most of those who profess to be Christians, believes he has risen from the mud and rocks instead of being created in the image and likeness of God.
6. The greatest honor that God did man was when he made him in his own image and likeness.
7. The greatest dishonor man has done to God is when he changed God into the image of a man or some lower creature.

III. The basic truth of all this information is that men turn away from the God who created all things because they cannot see him and they do not like what they hear about his character when they consider their own.

- A. If God is what the Bible says He is, and what nature shows him to be, then a guilty sinner has much to fear from him.
- B. The natural man cannot know the things of the Spirit of God without a spiritual birth, so he lives in only what he sees and comprehends with his physical senses.
- C. Therefore, he runs from God and indulges himself and his mind in the carnal and temporal things of earth.
- D. He comes to believe that there cannot possible be anything that exists unless he can see it, understand it, and verify it with physical means.
 1. This is where superstition comes in and why it is a true measure of how far a person is from the knowledge of God.
 2. The more superstitious a person is, the farther they are from God in their mind and heart.
- E. Superstition and idolatry go together like socks and shoes.
 1. Idolatry is superstition and superstition is idolatry.
 2. Both are based on fear, ignorance, and imagination.
- F. This is bad, but it is not the bottom yet – man falls much further than just having a false idea of God.