

Eleutheros Newsletter

April 2023

News of Interest

Eleutheros Books is dedicated to offering literature and course offerings that will help believers to think Biblically.

Feel free to check out the following:

[*The Ramifications of Our Salvation*](#) explains what happens Biblically when a believer is saved by God's grace.

[*Bible Translations: A Closer Look*](#) explains the challenges translators face and gives reasons why the wording in some versions is so much different from that of other versions.

[*Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14*](#) deals with every phrase in these three chapters which are key to understanding the blessings and challenges of the gifts God gives to every believer.

[*A Portrait of Jesus*](#) looks at our great Savior for Who He is and what He has done (and will do) from eternity past to eternity future.

[*The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*](#) presents clear and important evidence for our Lord's resurrection, the greatest event in all of history.

[*19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity*](#) gives insights into many factors from the past that are still influencing the Church today.

All these books can be purchased by going to the website: www.eleutherosbooks.com.

Eleutheros Books is now offering online courses.

Would you or anyone you know be interested in learning more Bible?

How about learning more about salvation?

Or a course that deals with many issues the Church still faces today?

Currently offering: Soteriology 101, 102, and I Corinthians

Study at your own pace! <https://eleutheros-seminars.thinkific.com/>

The Ramifications of Our Salvation is now available in a Spanish translation (both in paperback and eBook formats)! To make a purchase, go to www.amazon.com and enter [Las Ramificaciones de Nuestra Salvacion](#) in the search bar.

Thoughts on Romans

[1:21](#) *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were they thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

The Apostle Paul is pointing out just how depraved man really is. In verse 20 he emphasizes that God has clearly revealed Himself (“For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen...so that they are without excuse.”).

What he is saying here is that mankind knows that God exists (“when they knew God”) but does not want to treat Him as the God He is.

No people, however degraded, have yet been found without some yearning after a god, a seeking to find the true God and get back to Him. Notice what He said to the philosophers in Athens: “That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though he be not far from every one of us” ([Acts 17:27](#)).

The plain truth, however, is that unregenerate mankind does not naturally glorify God (“they glorified Him not as God”). Failure to glorify God is the ultimate definition of sin: “For all have sinned *and come short of the glory of God* ([Romans 3:23](#)). The Apostle, writing to the Corinthians insists “Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, *do all to the glory of God*” ([I Corinthians 10:31](#)).

It is clear that *man knows in his mind more than he is willing to do*. This is the reason for the condemnation of the heathen: “For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another; In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to me Gospel ([Romans 2:12-16](#)).

Beside the rebellion of man’s heart, there is also the matter of ingratitude (“neither were thankful”). Paul insists that believers “rejoice evermore” ([I Thessalonians 5:16](#)); he also writes the following: “In everything give thanks: for *this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you* ([I Thessalonians 5:18](#)).

Later in this verse Paul declares man “became vain in their imaginations.” Vanity=emptiness. Man, naturally wants to do whatever he wants to do, and the result is disobedience, ingratitude, emptiness, and darkening of a foolish heart!

This verse surely explains man’s desperate need of salvation!

The simple truth is that knowledge of our sin is the first point of the Gospel! Paul keeps emphasizing this point in Romans, all the way through chapter 3.

Some might say that is too negative. Consider, however, what Paul says in [Romans 2:4](#): “Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that *the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*”

Awareness of our sin is actually a very good thing! Why, for instance, would anyone want to hear about faith, grace, the blood of Christ, His bodily resurrection, and the offer of eternal life if he feels he is not in any danger?

However, when a person who is presented with the awfulness of sin from the Word of God and the Holy Spirit is working on his heart, that THEN he has the opportunity to repent, believe, ask Jesus to save him, and be born again!

Unfortunately, many believers do not want to present the truth about man’s sin because it is a “stumbling block” to the hearer and presents the possibility of rejection of the truth.

It is, however, man’s greatest problem, and until he faces it squarely and puts his faith in Jesus Christ, he is “without excuse”!

We will continue these thoughts from Romans in next month’s newsletter.