

# Eleutheros Newsletter

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.

[\*19<sup>th</sup> Century Influences on 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.amazon.com) and enter [Las Ramificaciones de Nuestra Salvacion](#) in the search bar.

God willing, Spanish translations of *A Portrait of Jesus* and *19<sup>th</sup> Century Influences on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christianity* will be available soon. Work is underway! Updates will be made available in future newsletters.

Eleutheros Books is pleased to announce a good connection with Jacksonville Baptist Theological Seminary, a Biblically sound institution which has been around well over thirty years

and offers quite a range of degree programs. Dr. John Rataczak will be offering Bible and Theology courses online immediately and Beginning New Testament Greek on zoom for the seminary early in the new year. Feel free to check out [Jacksonville Baptist Theological Seminary!](#)

### Thoughts on Romans

**1:32** *Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

The Apostle had just listed a number of clearly sinful things in [1:29-31](#): “Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.”

Now Paul explains that unsaved men not only do these awful things; they *know* that there is a God Who will judge them! The participle ἐπιγινόντες is very expressive. Men *know from experience* (that is the meaning of the main verb) that their deeds are evil and face serious consequences. The participle here has a preposition connected with it that makes man’s experiential awareness **complete!**

In other words, there is no doubt about this eternally important fact.

Another interesting fact about this participle is its adverbial relationship with the phrase “not only do the same.” It is concessive and a good translation would be: “Who, *although they totally know the judgment of God...do the same things.*

God created man in His own image. Part of God’s plan in doing so was to give man a *conscience* (an accumulation of knowledge about right and wrong). There is no doubt that man’s heart is defiled! There is also no doubt that man’s mind is also defiled! The simple fact is that unsaved man is totally depraved!

The word for “judgment” in this verse is based on a word which means “righteous.” God is holy and cannot do ANYTHING that is not right. His nature will not allow any such thing. The conclusion, then, is obvious: man’s awful sinfulness cannot go unpunished because God’s ways are always right, and no creature, not Satan, the angels, animals, or a self-righteous man can legitimately make the case that God has no right to punish sin!

The word “do” in this verse is also in the present tense, indicating that it is a continual practice. Salvation is not a “self-improvement program!” It is a miracle!

Paul then points out that mankind not only mentally and physically and continually sins, “they have pleasure in them that do them.”

The verb “have pleasure” is again in the present tense, indicating it is continual. The verb itself is another compound word which basically means “to reach a good opinion together” with evildoers.

In other words, sinners tend to agree with and encourage other sinners to continually do evil things!

The events of recent days are a manifestation of the truth of this verse. Who can now deny that Israel was viciously attacked?

Certainly, Christians do not question the fact that it was awful.

But there are many throughout the world who actually “reach a good opinion together” with the evildoers.

What should we do?

Obviously, we should pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Further, we should lovingly but clearly speak against sin as did the Apostle Paul in his day.

Brethren, we need to pray without ceasing ([I Thessalonians 5:17](#))!

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