

Eleutheros Newsletter

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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.

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

Thoughts on Romans

[1:28](#) *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.*

This verse explains the mental and spiritual condition of those who have not accepted Jesus as Savior. Paul says the same thing in a slightly different way in [1 Corinthians 2:14](#): “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: *neither can he know them*, because they are spiritually discerned.”

In [1 Corinthians 2](#) the truth is that man *cannot* understand spiritual truth. The message in Romans 1:28 is that man “does not like to retain God in their knowledge.”

These and many other verses indicate clearly just how lost unsaved souls truly are!

There is an interesting choice of words in the original Greek of this verse. “Like” is from the verb δοκιμάζω. Later in the verse we see that God gave them over to a reprobate (ἀδόκιμος) mind.

God hates sin but is desirous of saving the sinner. When man, in his depraved state continues to reject God in his knowledge, the result (at a circumstance known only to God) is that He gives them over to a reprobate mind.

The word ἀδόκιμος means “rejected, disapproved.”

Imagine you are working in a factory that makes parts for automobiles. Your job is to inspect parts just before they are packed up and shipped out to repair shops all over the world. Parts come down a conveyor. Most of them are acceptable, so they are usable. Occasionally one does not look good and you inspect it. In a very short time, you realize that part is defective so you simply throw it in the trash. It is ἀδόκιμος and will never be acceptable to anyone, especially to God!

The word “knowledge” in this verse is ἐπίγνωσις in the original Greek. This word expresses *experiential* knowledge. Man’s rejection of God affects not only his mind, but also the *confidence* that he could experience in Christ. “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” ([John 8:36](#)).

Finally, when man disapproves of God’s grace and does not have experiential awareness of it, God “gives them over” to a reprobate mind!

God does that!

The result of this awful situation is that man does “those things which are not convenient.”

In other words, when man’s mind is not fixed on God and rejects the truth the He alone reveals, there is a lack of relationship with Him, a disapproval by Him, and disgusting activities in so many human lives! The verb “to do” is in the present tense in the original Greek and means the disgusting activity is continual.

This is why we see such wickedness in the world today! Who among us can say that murder, hatred, lying, abortion, robbery, unwarranted wars, and so many other daily reports of depravity that are not glorifying to God or helpful to mankind?!

Apart from the grace of God, there is no hope for mankind!

God cannot stand sin, but he offers grace, love to all who don't deserve it!

This is why God's people have the opportunity and responsibility to present the Gospel to people all over the world! He could have asked angels to present the message, but He chose His own people (for whom He sent His Son to save) to present the Gospel! May we do so gladly, effectively, and Biblically!

Here in hymnal form is what we need to do.

Softly and Tenderly

Will L. Thompson

Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling,

Calling for you and for me;

See on the portals He's waiting and watching,

Watching for you and for me.

O for the wonderful love He has promised,

Promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon,

Pardon for you and for me!

Come home, come home,

Ye who are weary, come home!

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,

Calling, O sinner, come home!