

## Steps from Knowing God to Hating God

Romans 1:18-32

Introduction:

A. Gentiles had gone from “knowing God” (v. 21) to “haters of God” (v. 30).

1. This is why they need the gospel so badly. (vv. 16,17)
2. Three times it says that “God gave them up” (vv. 24, 26,28).

B. Gentiles descended from knowing God to hating God in four gradual, but well-defined steps.

Discussion:

I. Step One: They Stopped Glorifying God.

A. They did not glorify God while they knew him. (v. 21)

B. We glorify God by faithful service in word and deed - Had better do it while we know Him.

1. Glorify with words. (Rom. 15:6) - Sing, pray, teach and preach.
2. Glorify with works. (Mt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 4:11) - First principles, assemble, L.S. Give, etc.
3. Glorify with a pure life. (1 Cor. 6:20).
4. Glorify him now while you can. (Heb. 2:1-3; 3:7-13; 2 Tim. 4:1-5).

II. Step Two: They Turned To Human Wisdom.

A. Human wisdom turns to vain speculation for spiritual answers. (Our text Rom 1:21-23).

B. Human wisdom lacks the power to save. (1 Cor. 1:21; Rom. 1:16).

1. It has temporal value, but no saving or eternal value.
2. Its volumes cannot equal ONE verse of scripture.
3. Its sages of all time are nothing beside divine revelation. (1 Cor. 1:25).
4. Its planning did not produce salvation. (Eph. 2:8,9; 3:10,11; 2 Tim. 1:9).

III. Step Three: They Substituted Vain Worship.

A. Man seldom maintains a religious vacuum. (cf. Lk. 11:24-26).

1. Neglects God, exalts self, fills vacuum with human worship.
2. Rejects true object, acts or means of worship leading to substituting own.

B. Man tends to think more of own creation than God's (Our text Rom 1:25).

1. Can criticize church, worship, etc.
2. Do not criticize human institutions.

IV. Step Four: They Approved Immorality As A Way Of Life (our text Rom 1:26-32).

A. Disrespect for spiritual laws leads to disrespect for moral laws - vice versa.

1. Have seen apostates and digressives turn to lying and dishonor.
2. When one disregards laws in one area shows outward respect for other areas a sham.

B. Disrespect for moral laws should be no surprise - if disregards other laws.

Conclusion:

A. If you know God - glorify him while you still know him.

B. If you are not glorifying Him - Repent and turn.