

“Ingratitude”
Romans 1:21-23

The story of man’s moral descent from God

- I. Stage One - Recognition of God’s existence (“they knew God”)
 - Here is the reason men are without excuse.
 - Rebellious man knows God is there.
- II. Stage Two – Rejection of the revelation of God (“they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks”)
 - They did not recognize God’s worth or value.
 - They failed to recognize the source of creation’s blessing.
- III. Stage Three - Speculation about God became futile (“they became futile in their speculations”).
 - Rationalism substituted for revelation
 - The human mind unfettered to the truth of God is a dangerous thing.
- IV. Stage Four – Confusion regarding truth (“their foolish heart was darkened”)
 - Rebellious man doesn’t know where he came from, who he is, or where he is going.
 - Turning from the light leads to darkness.
- V. Stage Five – Assertion of unfounded conclusions (“professing to be wise, they became fools”)
 - Assumption that he has all the answers (arrogance!)
 - The mind is used to create clever dodges of responsibility to God.
- VI. Stage Six – Substitution of gods for God (“and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man”)
 - Man worships himself. He only worships an idol to get what he wants (e.g., relief of guilt, good crops, safety).
 - Man deifies himself and humanizes God.
 - Man’s foolishness is demonstrated in the great exchange he has made.