

## Although They Knew God

Romans 1.18-23

*“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.”* Romans 1.18-23

For a country that has "In God We Trust" on its money, we are pretty confused about what kind of God we trust. Just the mention of his name brings forth a multitude of conflicting images. Some people want to do away with the idea of God altogether. Others simply want to modify that idea to fit their opinion of who God should really be.

The idea of a God who judges us by some moral standard we must meet is a frightening idea to many, especially those who think that they should give account to no one. So, people attempt to redefine God or eliminate God.

In this attempt to redefine or ignore God, there is a downward spiral. And this is what is exposed by Paul in our text. Here we will see the rational mind deceived and deluded. Here we will see the outcome of unbelief. And hopefully we will be challenged, not only to recognize unbelief in the world, but also to recognize it in the church. Wherever it appears, it is dangerous.

### Men Who Suppress The Truth

*“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of **men who suppress the truth** by their wickedness...”*

*“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.”* John 3.19-20

### However, God Has Made It Plain To Them

*“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because **God has made it plain to them.**”*

*“For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”*

“Earth's crammed with heaven,  
and every common bush aflame with God.  
But only those who see take off their shoes;  
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.” Elizabeth Barret Browning

### Their Foolish Hearts Were Darkened

*“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and **their foolish hearts were darkened.**”*

### Although They Claimed To Be Wise, They Became Fools

*“**Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.”*

*“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”* Psalm 14.1