

Eleutheros Newsletter

December 2023

News of Interest

The monthly newsletter is now be published using Mail Chimp. If you desire to continue receiving the Eleutheros Books Newsletter, please resubscribe here. Those recipients who not subscribe will be removed from the distribution list.

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 Neutra 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.

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

2:1 *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.*

It is always good to examine previous verses when the word “therefore” is found in Scripture. When we do that we can understand the context of what is to come next.

The previous verses in chapter 1 explain why unsaved people are inexcusable. God has revealed Himself through His amazing creation ([1:20](#)), but man, even realizing God exists and is the Creator did not glorify Him and were not thankful for what He provides ([1:21](#)). In man’s refusal to praise God an arrogance that degenerated into foolishness developed ([1:22](#)). Idolatry, homosexuality, self-worship, punishment from God, and an awful array has become the norm ([1:23-32](#)).

By saying *whosoever thou art that judgest* Paul has in mind the legalism and the hypocrisy of the religious leaders, especially the Pharisees and Sadducees that had such a detrimental influence among the Jewish people of his day. Paul knew all about this kind of sin, having been a Pharisee before his salvation experience while on his way to abuse Christians in Damascus. He had judged that Christians were not chosen of God and chose to judge them in his own way of thinking.

Then the Apostle declares “thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest does the same things.” Our Lord spoke strong words on this very subject: “And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and behold, a beam is in thine own eye” ([Matthew 7:3-4](#)).

It is difficult enough for a believer to honor God in every way. All should understand that simple truth! Unfortunately, there are some who name the NAME of our Lord who tend to find a “mote” (=a small speck of dirt) in the life of some other brother instead of repenting of the sin of judgmentalism in their own lives.

In other words, such people, who seem to enjoy “correcting” others, are actually committing sin instead of recognizing that they have disobeyed the clear teaching from Jesus in [Matthew 7](#).

Sometimes these “motes” are simply disagreements on a difficult passage in Scripture. Sometimes these “motes” are differences in practice or lifestyle. Other times there may be some sin that should be confronted.

Some might ask, “If a brother has stumbled into sin, what should we do?”

Paul addresses this issue in his epistle to the Galatians: “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted” ([Galatians 6:1](#)).

If correction is needed, it should be provided by believers who are *spiritual*, not by some condemning legalist!

Further, the goal should be to *restore* the believer, not to condemn him!

Even further, the restorer needs to be sure his/her heart is right when the interactions take place, because arrogance can easily develop!

Mature Christians know these things!

May God help us to avoid arrogance, care for others who may be struggling, and recognize the importance of restoring others to a close relationship with Him!

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