

# Eleutheros Newsletter

May 2023

## 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.

[\*19<sup>th</sup> Century Influences on 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.amazon.com) and enter [Las Ramificaciones de Neustra Salvacion](#) in the search bar.

## Thoughts on Romans

[1:22](#) *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.*

Having explained the hardness of mankind's heart ("their foolish heart was darkened") in verse 21, the Apostle now declares the foolishness that dominates the thinking of unsaved people ("they became fools").

Man, *naturally* fails to glorify the God Who created him (verse 21) and become arrogant while doing so (verse 22)!

The Psalmist describes man's condition to be just as Paul does: *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The Lord looked down from heaven above upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one* ([Psalm 14:1-3](#)).

Jesus emphasized the emptiness of ignoring His offer of salvation: *For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul* ([Matthew 16:26](#))?

How empty, how arrogant, how foolish unsaved man is!

[1:23](#) *And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

Paul here shows indignant contempt for those grotesque efforts to present pictures (idols) of a "deity" that had long since been lost!

Instead of worshipping the God Who has created all things, man decides to worship things of his own creation! In the past man has worshipped the sun, moon, and stars rather than God ([Deuteronomy 4:19](#); [II Kings 17:16](#); [21:3,5](#); [II Chronicles 33:3](#)), animals ([Exodus 12:12](#); [32:4](#)), pictures on walls ([Ezekiel 8:10](#)), and earrings (Genesis 35:4).

God *demands* that His people avoid idolatry: *Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the Lord your God* ([Leviticus 19:4](#)).

Some today think man's condition is improving because we do not worship the same idols as people in previous days. How irreverent such thinking is! Consider the statues of Romanism; the attitudes people have for political figures, movie stars, and athletes; and the cults that are so prevalent! Can anyone honestly say that making these things our main focus is any better?

**1:24** *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves.*

God does not ignore man's sin! This verse indicates that at a certain point He condemns man to do disgusting things that affect man's physical conditions ("to dishonor their own bodies"). Today this is seen in alcoholism, drug abuse, sexual deviancy (which is described later in this chapter), abortion, and many other things that result in depression, mental and emotional disorders, even suicide!

At what point does God give up man to such things? Only God knows the answer to such a question! But what we *do* know is that God sent His Son to die for man's sin and will forgive it and save a soul from it when one truly repents and believes in Jesus ([Acts 16:31](#); [20:21](#); [Romans 5:20](#); [John 1:12](#); [3:16](#)).

Yes, man's sin is disgusting to God, but His grace is greater than our sin! Praise be to God!

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