

# Eleutheros Newsletter

October 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 Nuestra Salvacion](#) in the search bar.

God willing, Spanish translations of *A Portrait of Jesus* and *19<sup>th</sup> Century Influences on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christianity* will be available soon. Work is underway! Updates will be made available in future newsletters.

## Thoughts on Romans

[1:29-31](#) *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things; disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.*

Make no mistake about it, this list of such disgusting sins explains very clearly where all mankind stands before a holy God.

The truth is that man cannot do anything to make himself acceptable to God: man *became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools* ([Romans 1:21b-22](#)). Man is born into sin ([Romans 3:23](#); [5:12](#)), and that sin adversely affects his thinking and his relationship to God.

Most people in the world today ignore God and therefore believe they are not accountable to Him.

This is why passages such as [Romans 1:29-31](#) are so important! As long as people are not confronted with the truth of their sin, they will not see any need to repent, believe, or listen to such important elements of the Gospel as the blood, faith, grace, and the resurrection of our Lord!

When a man finally recognizes how thoroughly corrupt, he is, and the Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and works on his heart, then repentance can take place, causing one to be born again.

This passage begins with “being filled.” The participle here explains why God reacted in [verse 28](#): *God gave them over to a reprobate mind*. This word is in the perfect tense in the original Greek text. There was a point in time when man was filled with unrighteousness and man is **still** filled with unrighteousness. It is a perpetual condition, solved only by God’s grace when one is saved.

So just what does Paul describe in these verses? This list of *unrighteousness* includes sexual sin (“fornication,” and “without natural affection”), selfishness (“covetousness,” and “envy”), arrogance (“proud” and “boasters”), general depravity (“inventors of evil things” and “maliciousness”), disobedience to authority that God has ordained (“disobedience to parents” and “covenant breakers”), ignorance (“without understanding”), hatred (“haters of God”), and desirous of rebellion (“implacable” and “unmerciful”).

Each one of these sins is condemned many times in Scripture, but the Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle to include them in this list.

We live in a world that is full of individual sin, religious sin, and political sin. Consider what our Lord proclaimed to His disciples: *And He charged them, saying, take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod* ([Mark 8:15](#)). Leaven symbolizes evil, and it spreads!

How are today’s believers able to get the victory in such an evil age?

We do well to take Paul's admonition seriously: *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God* ([Romans 12:1-2](#)).

Verse 1 speaks of offering our bodies as a sacrifice.

Verse 2 speaks of a renewing of the mind. Jesus tells us that such a renewal is accomplished by the Word of God: *Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth.*

## **Trust and Obey**

John H. Summis

Consider the words of this great hymn:

*When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,*

*What a glory He sheds on our way!*

*While we do His good will He abides with us still,*

*And with all who will trust and obey.*

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way*

*To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

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