

THE ROAD TO RUIN

Rom 1:18-32

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In our text there is recorded the sordid account of a people whom God gave up
- B. These were a people who progressively got worse and worse until it is said that God gave them up
- C. Text gives, step by step, this road to ruin, so let's look at it closely

DISCUSSION:

I. THEY LEFT THE LIGHT v. 21

- A. The first step on road to ruin was leaving the light
 - 1. Their foolish heart was darkened
 - a. Attributes clearly seen & manifest by works v. 20
 - b. Without excuse for worshipping helpless idols
 - 2. When one leaves the word, he embarks on hopeless course like a ship left afloat without pilot or guide
- B. God's word is a lamp to guide man Psa 119:104-105
- C. Jesus is the true light Jhn 1:4-9

II. THEY CEASED TO WORSHIP v. 21

- A. Second step on road to ruin: ceasing to worship ceased to glorify God and give thanks
 - 1. A frightening thing to see: failure to worship and pray is right near the top of things leading to ruin
 - 2. Christians careless about assembly for worship should take note they are flirting with disaster
- B. Check our attendance record! Check on some you know to see if this contributed to leaving Lord Heb 10:25

III. THEY ENGAGED IN VAIN REASONING v. 21

- A. Their third step to ruin was vain reasoning
 - 1. Began to reason in themselves that what they thought to be right, really was right
 - 2. How vain this was and how prominent today
- B. We must read again and again Jer 10:23
- C. Our hope is in Lord and his word for guidance Jhn 8:32
 - 1. Disciples are learners - must know the truth
 - 2. The gospel obeyed frees from Satan's yoke; spiritual task-masters; and fear, then fills our soul with hope

IV. THEY BECAME FOOLS v. 22

- A. Fourth step on road to ruin - made fools of themselves
 - 1. Their foolish heart was darkened v 21
 - 2. Professed to be wise but became fools v 22
 - a. Greeks and Roman heathen boasted of their wisdom and held the rest of the world in contempt
 - b. At the same time idolatry showed their utter folly
 - 3. The fool said: "There is no God" Psa 53:1

- B. How strikingly like conditions of today this sounds
 - 1. Result: when they became so wise in themselves, no longer saw the need to do what God said v 25
 - 2. What Jesus said about wise & foolish Matt 7:24-27
 - a. Wise man built on firm foundation
 - b. House built on rock could not be undermined or destroyed, but would stand firm
 - c. So, shall it be with those who hear and obey Psa 1:5 "They shall stand in judgment."

V. THEY MADE BAD BARGAINS vs. 23,25

- A. Fifth step on road to ruin came by making bad bargains
- B. They exchanged God for idols vs 23,25
 - 1. Turning from revelation of God in nature, showed they were fools by making images, like man, or lower animals, and calling it god Isa 44:9-20
 - 2. Greeks made gods like men. Many statues still exist taken from old Greek and Roman temples. They worshipped birds, quadrupeds and reptiles
- C. They also exchanged truth for a lie v 25
- D. It was at this point that God gave them up
- E. Someone said: when they exchanged God for idols, they got down on two legs (man); then on all fours (beasts) and finally on their belly to crawl with him who was cursed in the long ago Gen 3:14

VI. THEY BECAME IMMORAL vs. 26-32

- A. Sixth step on road to ruin was involvement in immoral activities in the vilest way (see def. of "meet")
 - 1. What in the catalogue of sin could now be excluded?
 - 2. What seemed to make matters worse was they had not completely forgotten all they had known v 32
 - a. In spite of knowledge they not only continued in their vile sins, but took pleasure in others doing them
 - b. No deeper degree of depravity can be found than when men call evil good, and cherish it Isa 5:20
 - c. The conclusion from these facts is that all such guilty persons are under condemnation
- B. Look again at their condition! what a sorry lot!

CONCLUSION:

- A. The finished product is described in v 32 What more need be said?
- B. Who is the man that cannot read and learn the end result of following this road?
- C. Yet it was for these and all others that Jesus died Rom 5:8
- D. Have you taken advantage of His provisions Rom 6:16,17