

[18] For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. [19] Because, what is known of the God is manifest in them,¹ for the God manifested to them. [20] For the invisible things of him from creation of world are understood² in the things made. He is clearly seen,³ both his eternal power and divinity,⁴ so that they are without excuse.

[21] Because, knowing the God, they did not glorify as God, nor were thankful, but became futile⁵ in their thoughts;⁶ and their without understanding⁷ heart was darkened. [22] Professing to be wise, they became foolish,⁸ [23] and changed the glory of the incorruptible⁹ God into a likeness of an image of corruptible man and birds and four footed animals and crawling creatures.

[24] Therefore, the God also delivered them into the desires of their hearts into uncleanness, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, [25] who exchanged the truth of the God into the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the creator, who is blessed into the ages, amen.

[26] Because of this, the God delivered them into dishonorable passions. For even their females¹⁰ exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.¹¹ [27] And likewise also the males, leaving the natural use of the female, burned in their longing¹² for one another, males in¹³ males committing the shame, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. [28] And just as they did not approve to have the God in knowledge, the God delivered them unto a debased mind to do things not fitting; [29] being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality,

1 John 1:9; Job 33:14-30

2 νοούμενα (noumena) “are understood” present passive plural participle

3 καθορᾶται (kathoratai) present passive *singular* indicative, thus, “He is clearly seen”

4 θειότης (theiotês) “divinity” ASV, DARBY, DRA, Phillips, JUB, WEB; “Godhead” YLT, Green, KJV, NKJV; “divine nature” NAS - The Greek word for “**Godhead**” (NKJV) in Colossians 2:9 is θεοτητος (theotêtos). The KJV has “**Godhead**” in Acts 17:29 (NKJV “Divine Nature”) for its translation of θειον (theion). θειον (theion) is also found in 2 Peter 1:3-4. There the KJV & NKJV translate both times as “**divine**.”

5 ἐματαιώθησαν (emataiôthêsan) “became futile” NKJV, NAS; “became vain” KJV, Green; “were made vain” YLT; “became worthless” NIRV – this is a passive indicative verb, meaning it happen *to* them. Related noun (ματαιότητι) in similar usage in Ephesians 4:17, “in the futility of their mind.” Related adjective (μάταιοι) used in similar fashion in 1 Corinthians 3:20 “thoughts of the wise . . . are futile.”

6 διαλογισμοῖς (dialogismois) “thoughts” - See Genesis 6:5; Psalm 10:4 (“all his thoughts are 'There is no God’ NAS); Psalm 49:11; 64:6; Proverbs 15:26; Isaiah 55:7-9; 65:2; Jeremiah 6:19; Amos 4:13.

7 ἀσύνετος (asunetos) “without understanding” DARBY; “undiscerning” Green; “foolish” NKJV, KJV, NAS – found also in Matthew 15:16 (“without understanding”); Mark 7:18 (“without understanding”); Romans 1:31 (“undiscerning”; “without understanding” NAS); 10:19 (“foolish”; “without understanding” NAS).

8 ἐμωράνθησαν (emôranthêsan) “became foolish” - passive = happened *to* them.

9 ἀφθάρτου (aphthartou) “incorruptible” NKJV, NAS, YLT, Green – found also in 1 Corinthians 9:25 (“imperishable”); 15:52 (“incorruptible”); 1 Timothy 1:17 (“immortal”); 1 Peter 1:4, 23; 3:4 (“incorruptible”).

10 θήλειαι (thêleiai) “females” - plural form of same word for “female” as in Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6; Galatians 3:28.

11 This is the only verse in the Bible that specifically addresses lesbianism. Female homosexuality goes uncondemned in the law (Genesis – Deuteronomy). Male homosexuality is condemned in Genesis 19; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13.

12 ὀρέξει (orexei) “longing” YLT; “lust” NKJV, KJV; “desire” NAS – only found here.

13 ἐν (en) “in”; NKJV, YLT, etc. “with” - same exact word as is translated “in” later in the verse, “in themselves.”

wickedness, covetousness, badness,¹⁴ full of envy, murder,¹⁵ strife, deceit, malice,¹⁶ gossips,¹⁷ [30] evil-speakers,¹⁸ God haters,¹⁹ insolent,²⁰ proud, boasters, inventors of bad things, disobedient to parents,²¹ [31] without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving,²² irreconcilable,²³ unmerciful. [32] Who, knowing the righteous requirements of the God,²⁴ that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do them, but also approve those practicing.

14 κακία (kakia) “badness” - see footnote for Matthew 6:34.

15 Romans 3:15

16 κακοηθείας (kakotheias) “malice” NAS; “malignity” KJV; “evil-mindedness” NKJV; “evil dispositions” YLT; “evil habits” Green – only found here. Malice = “the intention or desire to do evil” (Oxford).

17 ψιθυριστάς (psithuristas) “gossips” NAS; “whisperers” NKJV, KJV, YLT – only here. There is also ψιθυρισμοί (psithurismoi) in 2 Corinthians 12:20 (“gossip” NAS; “whisperings” NKJV); φλύαροι (phluaroi) “gossips” 1 Timothy 5:13 and the related φλυαρῶν (phluarôn) “prating” 3 John 10. See also footnote for Leviticus 19:16.

18 καταλάλους (katalalous) - “evil-speakers” YLT; “backbiters” NKJV, KJV; “slanderers” NAS – only here.

19 θεοστυγεῖς (theostugeis) “God-haters” YLT, Green; “haters of God” NKJV, KJV, NAS – only here.

20 ὑβριστάς (hubristas) “insolent” NAS, Green; “violent” NKJV, “despiteful” KJV; “insulting” YLT – found also in 1 Timothy 1:13 (“insolent man” NKJV; “violent aggressor” NAS).

21 See Exodus 21:15, 17; Leviticus 19:3 (lit. “fear”); 20:9; Ezekiel 22:7.

22 ἀσπρόργου (astorgous) “unloving” NKJV, NAS, “without natural affection” KJV, YLT, Green – found also in 2 Timothy 3:3. For the concept of “without natural affection” see Isaiah 49:15a? Yes, Leviticus 26:29; Deuteronomy 28:53, 56-57; 2 Kings 6:28-29; Jeremiah 19:9; Lamentations 2:20; 4:10; Ezekiel 5:10 (Isaiah 9:20).

23 ἀσπόνδους (aspovdous) “irreconcilable” A&G, Louw-Nida; “implacable” YLT, KJV; “unforgiving” NKJV, Green; MT & RT, not in CT – found also in 2 Timothy 3:3.

24 Men know God's standard, but turn from it. See, e.g. Leviticus 18:24-28 in which God condemns the nations *before* the law is given to Israel.