

Romans 1:21b, 22 - Rationalizing Rejection.

- Theme: Mankind's pride in rejecting God, produces more pride in rationalizing God away.
- I. God Allows People Who Reject Him to Profess Wisdom: Pride - Romans 1:21b, 22a.
 - A. Pride Causes a Person to Reject God. 1 Corinthians 1:26.
 - B. This Pride Produces Philosophy & More Pride.
- II. God Make People Who Reject Him into Fools: Self-Deception - Romans 1:22b.
 - A. "Fool" is not name-calling about an absence of information; it is a character description of someone's ethics and morals.
 - B. Self-deception affects not only our relationship with God, but also with others and many times manifests itself in blame-shifting.

Conclusion.

- Recognize that many times our thoughts (meditations) are determinative in our relationship with God and others (Proverbs 18:20).

Questions for Thought and Discussion.

1. From this message, what was the truth that stuck out the most to you?
2. How does pride result in men rejecting God?
3. How does pride produce more pride?
4. What were some major causes of Adam & Eve's fall (Genesis 3:4-6)?
5. When God calls those who reject Him "fools," is He speaking merely about the quality of their education?
6. What is God talking about when He calls them fools and how do you know (hint: Romans 1:29-32)?
7. How has man's rejection and rationalization about the existence of God and His truth affected our relationships with others?
8. When we as Christians personally reject God's truth for our living, how does it affect our relationships with others?
9. How does blame-shifting affect our relationships with God and others?
10. How does a blame-shifter really fool himself?
11. How do thoughts (meditation on certain facts as we see them) many times determine our actions?

12. Since thoughts (meditations) many times determine action, on what (whom) should we meditate mostly upon? Why? What truths specifically?

Thoughts for Prayer.

1. Pray that God would help us all at Grace to always receive and live God and His truth no matter how painful it may be. Pray that our living of His truth would positively affect our relationship with Him and others.
2. Pray that God would give us all at Grace humility in our response to God and His Word instead of pride.
3. Pray that God helps us not practice foolishness (Romans 1:29-32).
4. Pray that God would help us not to be "blame-shifters."
5. Pray that God would help us to meditate (think) upon the right truths since they determine actions.