

First, First Principles

Romans 1:18-32

I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. It is truly an honor and blessing to be able to bring you a message from God's word.
2. I take preaching very seriously (*"Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."*; 1 Tim. 4:16; great responsibility! 2 Tim. 4:2).
 - A. I urge you to *"give the more earnest heed"* to the things preached; to *"search the Scriptures...to find out whether these things [are] so,"*; then I urge all of us to make the proper application to our lives.
 - B. In the course of this lesson if you don't understand something or think I've misused or abused the Scriptures I implore you to bring that to my attention (in doing so you'll be my friend!).
3. I'm sure most preachers struggle over what to preach when presented with a new audience (Best lesson? Smoothest lesson? One opportunity lesson!).
4. **2** The book of Hebrews speaks of the *"first principles of the oracles of God"* (5:13) and the *"elementary principles of Christ"* (6:1-2; *"repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment"*).
5. These *"first principles,"* are unquestionably true and worthy of our study, but I submit to you there are some *"first principles"* that come before these. These are what I call **"First, First Principles."**
6. I believe we've neglected to teach **"First, First Principles"**; esp. in our evangelistic efforts. If people don't understand these **"First, First Principles"** they will never fully understand, appreciate and totally accept the *"elementary principles of Christ"* (i.e., plan of salvation, necessity and significance of water baptism; resurrection/judgment; the NT church, Bible authority, etc.)
7. **3** Thus, tonight we will consider the **"First, First Principles"**; First I want to consider something critical to our approach to this study (**4 Concepts** chart: **This chart illustrates a very basic, but quite profound truth.** It illustrates a basic principle that affects every realm of our lives, but it is especially critical in the spiritual realm as we seek to know and serve God.**; read Romans 1:18-32 **5-7**).

II. DISCUSSION: 8 I want to share with you four simple, but profound points from this reading.

I. ** Eternal power and deity

- A. The people Paul speaks of in Romans chapter one did not have a codified law as did the Jewish people (v. 18); they didn't have the same access to God as the Jews, but nonetheless there was some truth that was available to them. What truth? **Truth about God! 1:19**
- B. It was truth about God that was in plain sight (i.e., *"manifest in them,"* NKJ); it was staring them right in their faces! (NIV: *"God has made it plain to them"*)
 - ✓ This truth is independent of divine revelation,
 - ✓ This truth has been *"shown"* to *"all men"* (past, present, future) by God! God, if you will, has left a 'calling card'!
 - ✓ This is truth that can be both *"clearly seen"* (NKJ) and *"understood,"*
 - ✓ This truth has been available *"since the creation of the world,"*
 - ✓ This truth is *"understood through what has been made"* (i.e., through the created universe and all its wonders),
 - ✓ This truth is so universal and manifestly evident that those who chose to ignore it or deny it are *"without excuse"*!

- ✓ This **truth** concerns God's two "invisible attributes": His **eternal power** and **deity**!
- ✓ **There is not one shred of doubt; it's as if there is a gigantic neon sign with flood lights and loud speakers blaring in the heavens! 9 Psalm 19:1-3**

C. **10** Looking at the material universe we understand the universal principle that something cannot come from nothing.

- (1) Scientists call this the *Law of Cause and Effect* or the *Principle of Causality* (proven over and over again by a mountain of empirical evidence; e.g., Aristotle in the 4th century B.C.).
- (2) Every effect must have an adequate antecedent cause; therefore, the material universe (effect) had to have a cause.
- (3) We know the universe is not eternal; therefore, that demands there had to be something prior to the existence of the material universe.
- (4) Furthermore, to bring something into existence requires power.
- (5) Therefore whatever existed prior to the material universe had power.

D. **11** The very existence of the material universe demands a power had to exist prior to the material universe coming into being (such a conclusion is inescapable!).

- (1) The preexistence of power means it was a power existing independent of time, space and matter.
- (2) Therefore, this power had to be an eternal power; because only an eternal power can exist independent of time, space and matter.
- (3) But, there's more: This eternal power possesses the essential characteristics of deity.
 - (a) We look at the material universe and know that it has a cause: eternal power.
 - (b) We see ourselves as a part of the material universe; for we too are material (in body) and not eternal.
 - (c) So then this eternal power that could bring into being such wonders as all of the plant and animal life on this planet and, indeed, the entire material universe; must be of a different classification (a different order of intelligence) than the things it brings into existence: this eternal power is deity (godhead, divinity, divine nature).
- (4) **12** It's the difference between the Creator and the creature.
 - (a) Paul said it's the difference between the Potter and the clay (Rom. 9).
 - (b) The Potter is superior to the clay in terms of both power and intelligence; so the clay cannot argue with the Potter.
 - (c) All of this is showing us what any of us can know; even the proverbial savage on that faraway, undiscovered island can know this!
 - (d) Anyone who takes the time to look at the universe about him; use the powers of observation/deduction human beings possess can know there's an eternal power and deity!
 - (e) In fact, the evidence is so overwhelming that an eternal power and deity exists, Paul says there is no "excuse" for failing to recognize this most fundamental of facts (v. 20).
 - (f) Acts 14:17 speaks of this: "Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons; filling our hearts with food and gladness."

E. So then, this is our **First, First Principle: the existence of an eternal power that is deity that any man can and should know.**

- (1) These two facts are simple (as in *easily* seen), but are the most profound two facts in the universe!

- (2) These two facts are easily and clearly visible despite them being God's "invisible attributes"!
 - (a) Importantly, we cannot yet identify Him as *Jehovah God* of the Bible.
 - (b) But we can identify that there is a Being who possesses: 1) eternal power, and 2) deity.
 - (c) He is unlike man since He exists independent of time, space and matter.
 - (d) He is of an entirely different and vastly superior intelligence than man, He is deity!

F. 13 Application:

- (1) We all need to come to a deeper appreciation of the superiority of God vs. man!! Ironically, the more we understand and appreciate the immeasurable superiority of God (His distance from man) over man the closer we can get to God (recall **Concepts** chart).
- (2) Paul says the evidence of His superiority can be seen through what He created:
 - (a) **** The vastness of the universe:**
 - ✓ The known universe is ~93 billion light years in diameter (46.5 billion light years in any direction; speed of light 186,000 miles per second or ~670 million mph! Or, 16.1 billion miles per day! 5.9 trillion miles per year!).
 - ✓ Known universe contains >100 billion galaxies each with 10 million—trillion stars each! There are more stars than grains of sand on the earth!
 - ✓ **14** Genesis 1:16 ******According to scientists at the University of Hawaii there are approximately 7.5×10^{18} (7 quintillion, 500 quadrillion; a billion billion) grains of sand on the earth. There are more stars in the known universe than grains of sand on the earth; 10×10^{21} ; a billion, trillion (but there are more molecules of H₂O in just 20 drops of water!). **15** God knows exactly how many there are and "He calls them all by name" (Psa. 147:4). **Comment on Hubble "Deep Field."**
 - ✓ **16** Earth rotates on its axis at 1,037 mph, ******orbits the sun at ~67,000 mph, ******solar system orbits the center of the Milky Way galaxy at ~420,000 mph, ******and our galaxy is whizzing through space at ~2,240,000 mph! **17**Do you feel a bit dizzy?!
 - ✓ ****VY Canis Majoris** (constellation *Canis Major*; *The Great Dog*) **18** is one of the largest known stars; **19** if it were our sun its radius would extend past the orbit of Saturn (890,700,000 miles); ~2,100 times the size of our Sun; take 7 billion Suns to fill it; a jet airliner would take 205 days to fly around the Sun, but ~1,126 years to fly around VY *Canis Majoris*! Now scientists say UY Scuti is ~20% larger than VY *Canis Majoris*! **Gen. 1:16:** "He made the stars also."!
 - ✓ ****Now, how big am I?** (Puny! Insignificant to the extreme! I'm smaller than a speck of dust on a dust mite on a mattress in a cheap motel! Physically I am nothing! And, even worse, spiritually I'm totally bankrupt!)
 - (b) **20 The complexity of the universe:** e.g., complexity of the human body.
 - ✓ ****Guyton's Textbook of Medical Physiology** (*homeostasis* (lit. *homo* "similar to" and *stasis* "standing still"): remarkably complex control systems of the body to maintain a constant internal environment; ******more complex than the cockpit of a 747 or the control room of a nuclear power plant!).
 - ✓ ****Human body** consists of ~100 trillion cells; >200 cell types. ******Every cell is a self-contained biochemical factory with a myriad of sub-cellular organs for its function. The average cell is about 10^{-6} meters (micrometer) thick, a human hair is 1,000 times wider! If lined up side-by-side these 100 trillion cells would encircle the earth 200 times!

- ✓ ****Our heart beats ~100,000 times per day; **35 million per year; 2.5 billion per lifetime; a baby's heart beat starts ~18 days after conception.**
 - ✓ ****Physiology of vision: involves >40 complex biomolecules interacting in picoseconds ** (10⁻¹²; time it takes light to travel the width of a human hair!) biochemicals→electrical nerve impulses (each eye has 137 million light sensitive cells)→brain→vision! Takes place millions of times per second, day-in and day-out! And we think nothing of it, we take it for granted! **Psa. 139:14:** "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well."**
- (3) These facts about the material universe, about the creation, and about ourselves reveals and demonstrates the vast superiority of the Creator over His creation!
- (a) It is critical for us to recognize, appreciate, and meditate upon God's infinite superiority and our absolute inferiority!
 - (b) It is impossible to move on to the "elementary principles of Christ" and to understand, appreciate and apply them without establishing this **First, First Principle**!
 - (c) An understanding of God's superiority and our inferiority is the most important principle of all! Everything else depends upon it! **Concepts** chart **Isa. 55:8-9:** "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.'"

2. **21 Obligations:** second **First, First Principle**

- A. These two simple truths (simple as in easily seen, yet very profound) impose upon us obligations. That's what Paul said (v. 20): "So that they are without excuse, because when they knew God they:
- (1) **22** did not glorify Him as God (they refused to recognize the position of the Creator, they refused to look up, they treated God as someone on their own level, or even lower; they created a god in their own image.); and Paul goes on:
 - (2) nor were they thankful,
 - (3) but became futile in their thoughts
 - (4) and their foolish hearts were darkened
 - (5) professing to be wise
 - (6) they became fools
- B. If we take the time to examine the facts we can discern that an eternal power that has a superior level of intelligence than us exists! (Creator vs. creature, Potter vs. clay).
- C. He is so powerful and intelligent that He possesses the ability to summon and order this vast and complex material universe into existence from nothing! **Heb. 11:3:** "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed [NIV: formed] by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."
- D. **23** These truths necessarily create two obligations:
- (1) First, we must look up to God; be awed and bowed in His presence (v. 21: "glorify Him as God.").
 - (2) But not only must we look up and recognize God's superiority, His eternal power and deity (Potter vs. clay); second, we also have the obligation to recognize our complete and total dependence upon that eternal power and deity.
 - (a) A man is normally thankful to anyone upon whom he has a degree of dependence (e.g., parents, teachers, employer, etc.).

- (b) We are totally dependent upon our Creator for absolutely everything! Air, food, clothing, shelter, our very existence! (Circumstances of your birth!)
- (c) Thus, we should be awed and bowed in the presence of our Creator, recognizing our complete and total dependence upon Him; then recognizing this obligates us to glorify God and to be thankful!

(3) ** But what was the case then, and what is the case now?

Rom. 1:21: “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

- (a) They were swept away with their own reasonings; they were puffed up by pride in their knowledge and wisdom (or lack thereof!); therefore their “foolish hearts were darkened.”
- (b) They “suppress[ed] the truth in unrighteousness”! What truth?! The truth about the Creator!

(c) There is nothing new under the sun: *Darwinism: A Theory in Crisis*: **24**

“There are only two possible explanations as to how life arose: Spontaneous generation arising to evolution or a supernatural creative act of God...There is no other possibility. Spontaneous generation was scientifically disproved 120 years ago by Louis Pasteur and others, but that just leaves us with only one other possibility...that life came as a supernatural act of creation by God, but I can't accept that philosophy because I do not want to believe in God. Therefore I choose to believe in that which I know is scientifically impossible, spontaneous generation leading to evolution.” (p. 46 of *Darwin's Demise*; Dr. George Wald, professor emeritus of neurobiology at Harvard University received the Nobel Prize in 1967 for his work in the physiology of vision.) Did you get that! **25 A modern Romans one moment!**

E. **Significantly:** It is by the reception of these truths (independent of revelation) that we prepare ourselves to accept revelation.

- (1) Failing to receive this **First, First Principle** there can be no light.
- (2) A man that does not (to some degree) accept and understand God's eternal power and deity without revelation, is totally unprepared and unable to fully accept and understand His will through revelation! The foolish heart is darkened!
- (3) Paul said a man that won't take this first, first step, if you will, is a “fool”!
- (4) They refused to look up and enthroned God and to be thankful; instead they reached up and pulled God down to the level of man and beast; as something created rather than the Creator.
 - (a) This is the inevitable result of refusing to know God.
 - (b) This is the inevitable result of denying or ignoring that which God has shown us; that which He has made clearly visible, clearly knowable, clearly understandable!
 - (c) This is the inevitable result of failing to take the first, first step we can take with the capacity we are given and the manifest evidence available and it shuts forever from man a knowledge of that which he cannot know except through faith in the revelation of Almighty God!

F. **26** Failure to take these steps we can take with the reasoning ability given us and the evidence made manifest to us dooms us to walk in darkness; **God leaves us to stew in our own juice**; we reap the consequences of our own arrogance and foolishness!

- (1) We walk in darkness and become subject to the judicial wrath of God!

- (2) Paul speaks of their miserable doom three times: "...God...gave them up (v. 24) ... God gave them up (v. 26) ...God gave them over" (v. 28). What a pitiful condition!
- G. It is terrible to contemplate and accept that among God's created beings as they populate the earth today, the vast, vast majority of the ~7.4 billion beings are in this unenviable state.
- (1) They've refused to recognize what they, by their own powers of observation can recognize, thus, they are incapable of taking further positive steps (not saying they can't change!).
 - (2) More than that this is not something that is simply the consequence of their own failure, but the judicial wrath of God is also pronounced against the man that fails to look up to Him and see what is manifest and recognize his dependence upon Him. **God gave them up! God gave them up! God gave them over!**
 - (3) They got what was coming to them! They reaped the harvest of their own foolish and darkened hearts!
- H. **What an ugly picture!** Here is a picture almost too embarrassing to read to a mixed audience.
- (1) It's a picture of both the ancient world and the modern world.
 - (2) It is the fruit of denying the existence of an eternal power and deity.
 - (3) It is the fruit of refusing to be thankful for all the blessings of life. **We live in a world cursed by this fruit.**
 - (4) We make it all about us, and we do it, not in a corner, but openly, it is flaunted about and cast right into the face of Almighty God! (Google "Folsom Street Fair"!!)
- I. I fear many claiming to be Christians do not even know God in this first sense (e.g., various human/false theories surrounding origins that seek to "reconcile" modern science and the Bible.).
- (1) **God gave them up, God gave them up, God gave them over!**
 - (2) Oh! What a pitiful thing this is! Vv. 24-32 reads like the roll call of a damned and cursed generation!
 - (3) Why? They refused to know God! First principle? My oh, my! This is a first, first principle!
- J. How can we hope to reach out to the world with the gospel of Christ, the gospel plan of salvation, the NT definition of the church, an explanation of baptism, etc. How can we reach a world with these truths when they've not accepted this **First, First Principle**?!
- (1) How can we expect Christians who do not properly appreciate these most basic **First, First Principles** to respect Bible authority?
 - (2) How can we expect them to truly appreciate the necessity of presenting their bodies as "a living sacrifice"?

3. **27 Significance of sin**

- A. **28** What is sin? **It is transgression of law certainly, but what law? **There's no codified law under consideration here in Romans one. We haven't gotten to that yet. The people here did not have the Law of Moses (2:14).
- B. But we know they had some law because of the sins for which God held them accountable.
- (1) Paul is talking about sin in its most basic sense, another **First, First Principle**!
 - (2) (The law he speaks of existed from creation; passed down orally via the patriarchs; Rom. 2:14.)
- C. **29** He's pointing out that sin is against God! All sin is against God!

- (1) That's where we must start when we discuss sin. We must start with the idea that the existence of an eternal power and deity implies law.
 - (2) We've not gotten to Jehovah God or His revelation; we're just at the most basic and fundamental level.
 - (3) The existence of an eternal power and deity implies there are obligations the Creator has placed on the creation (Potter vs. clay).
- D. However, that is far from the prevailing attitude in society.
- (1) Like that ancient society, the concept of sin is almost non-existent in today's society. Why?
 - (a) There has been a general decline in moral values, even among "religious" people.
 - (b) The prevalent "permissive/tolerant" attitude in our society says everyone is free to "do their own thing" and no one has a right to question them (postmodern mindset).
 - (2) Today it is not politically correct to call sin, sin: In today's world people don't sin they commit "minor missteps," they have "a slight character flaw" leading to "momentary lapses in judgment"; they are "well-meaning," but "somewhat misguided."
 - (a) People no longer commit the sin of adultery ("extracurricular social liaison").
 - (b) Homosexuality is no longer a sin ("alternate lifestyle" a "gay lifestyle"!).
 - (c) Assault and battery is no longer a brutal crime ("anger management issue").
 - (d) People no longer lie ("misremember"; e.g., Hilary Clinton).
 - (3) As a result, society in general, and even members of the Lord's Church do not appreciate the wide prevalence of sin nor sin's terrible and destructive consequences (Rom. 3:23; 6:23).
- E. Instead, sin is only seen in light of its effect on our fellow man (i.e., personal/social concepts of sin).
- F. But that doesn't get to the real wrong. What is the real wrong?
- (1) At its core sin is not just a personal thing, between me and you, and at its core, it doesn't have anything to do with society.
 - (2) It has to do with the fact that our Maker, a benevolent, loving Creator who gave us the blessings of this universe and opened to us all the wonders of its blessings (e.g., food, clothing, shelter, air, etc.) has been forgotten; we've lived in such a way as to be contrary to His will concerning us; we've failed to recognize our most basic obligation to God.
- G. That's the **First, First Principle** about sin! **First and foremost all sin is against God!**
- (1) In our preaching about sin we need to constantly press this concept into the hearts of our listeners (i.e., "cut to the heart"; **Jn. 16:8**: "*convict the world of sin, righteous, and of judgment.*").
 - (2) This is law in its most basic sense. (Lk. 15 when the prodigal came to himself and saw himself as he really was, he said, Luke 15:18, 21 "*Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.*")
- H. When you sin is that what comes to your mind first? "*I have sinned against heaven!*"
- (1) Or have you accepted the humanistic and social concept of sin and refuse to fully recognize you've failed to meet the most basic obligation to your Creator?!
 - (2) Our third **First, First Principle** is: "Almighty God in heaven I have sinned against YOU!"

4. Remedy for sin

- A. **30** Only when the significance of sin comes into its proper perspective can the remedy for sin then be understood and appreciated.

- (1) How can man appreciate as a remedy for sin something that comes from Almighty God when he sees sin simply as something that has to do with man and stops right there?
 - (2) If that's our concept of sin we don't need a savior, we need a lawyer!
- B. How can man appreciate the fact that someone from a higher source, someone vastly superior to him must say, "This is the remedy. This is the only way out."
- (1) It is impossible if we only think in terms of the social concept of sin.
 - (2) Talk about first principles! We haven't touched the border of the garment of first principles until we've gotten this point across to folks!
- C. As the prodigal, we must recognize that due to sin we are without God, we are 'given up' to a reprobate mind!
- (1) We are fools puffed up by our own pride allowing ourselves to measure sin in terms of society rather than in terms of rebellion against our Creator; we are fools incapable of appreciating the real meaning of the sacrifice of Almighty God's Son for us!
 - (2) How can we appreciate His sacrifice if our concept of God, of sin and our obligations are so limited? How can the "first principles" (of the gospel) mean anything to us if we are blind to this **First, First Principle?**
- D. **31** As we consider the remedy for sin we must remember four things:
- (1) **** First:** Our smallness (physically & spiritually), our absolute spiritual bankruptcy, our total and complete dependence upon God for sin's remedy; we are enemies of God! Rom. 5:10 We are enemies of the eternal power and deity of which Paul speaks! Talk about fear! **2 Cor. 5:10-11a:** *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. I know, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men..."*; **Heb. 10:31:** *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*; **Heb. 12:29:** *"For our God is a consuming fire."*
 - (2) **** Second:** The great lengths to which God has gone to save us: the golden thread of God's scheme of redemption Gen. 3:15→Gen. 12:1-3→Law of Moses, Gal. 3→Mark 15→Rev. 20-22!
 - (a) It took our Creator millennia to work out the marvelous scheme of redemption!
 - (b) And, it is yet to be completed! **Jn. 5:28-29:** *"...the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."*; **1 Cor. 15:24:** *"Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power."*
 - (3) **** Third:** The supreme value of God's gift!
 - (a) We must contemplate with utmost seriousness of thought that the eternal power and deity who has always been and always will be; who has through the power of His word spoken us and the material universe into existence from nothing; He is one and the same as He who emptied Himself and took on the form of a man, who lived a life just like us with all of its temptations, trials, frustrations, and disappointments; who humbled Himself even to the point of unjustly dying the shameful and painful death of a criminal to provide the only remedy for sin!
 - (b) Talk about a **First, First Principle!**
Jn. 1:1-3: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."*

Col. 1:16-18: “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

Heb. 11:3: “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”

Phil. 2:5b-11: “...Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

- (c) “This is such an important doctrine (i.e., Jesus is Creator, cvt) of the New Testament that it is remarkable how rarely it is emphasized in modern evangelicalism.” (Henry Morris)
- (4) **** Fourth: The spectrum of our existence:** speck of dust on a dust mite→supreme focal point of God’s creation and of God’s love.
- (a) The eternal power and deity that is our Creator so intensely desires our fellowship that He was willing to die to make us “joint heirs with Christ”! Rom. 8:17 The Creator died for His creation!
- Rom. 5:8-10:** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” (BTW: We need to be thankful God is a God of grace, mercy and love! He owes us nothing!)
- (b) Surely indeed, He is the pearl of great price! **Matt 13:45-46:** “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”
- (c) The greatest disaster that can befall us is if we fail to look up and see that He exists, then upon this great realization “grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us,” (Acts 17:27) and finally consider Him as the “pearl of great price” in our life!

III. CONCLUSION: 32

1. This brief consideration of Romans one gives us four simple, but profound points to consider.
2. Without God there is nothing! Without God there is no hope! Without God there is only dismal darkness, now and forever more! May God help us to receive in our hearts that which He has so bountifully provided for us!

In part, based on an audio sermon by Robert F. Turner (*They Knew Not God*).