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## The Regrettable Exchange Romans 1:21-23

### I. The Rejection of Man (v. 21)

A. They did not \_\_\_\_\_ God (v. 21a)  
[2 Tim. 3:13; Titus 3:3-5; Psa. 29:1-2; 1 Cor. 10:31; Rev. 4:11; Ex. 33:18-19; 34:6-7; Jer. 13:15-16; Acts 12:22-23; Matt. 24:29-30]

B. They did not \_\_\_\_\_ God (v. 21b)  
[Matt. 5:45; Acts 14:15-17; 1 Cor. 4:7; Psa. 100:3-4]

C. They became \_\_\_\_\_ in their thinking (v. 21c)  
[2 Kgs. 17:15; Jer. 2:5; Eph. 4:17-18; Eccl. 12:1, 13]

D. Their \_\_\_\_\_ hearts were darkened (v. 21d)  
[Col. 2:8; Jn. 3:19-20; Matt. 6:22-23; Jn. 8:12; 1:14; Eph. 1:18; 2 Cor. 4:6]

### II. The Retardation of Man (v. 22)

A. Claiming to be \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 22a)  
[Gen 3:5-6; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3; Jn. 17:17]

B. They became \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 22b)  
[Psa. 14:1; 74:18; Lk. 11:40; Jer. 10:14; 1 Cor. 1:20]

### III. The Religion of Man (v. 23)

A. A \_\_\_\_\_ exchange (v. 23a)

1. To exchange the \_\_\_\_\_ of God with the mortality of man (2 Thes. 2:3-4, 9; Dan. 4:31-32)

2. To exchange that which is \_\_\_\_\_ valuable with pitiful substitutes (Rom. 11:36; Eph. 3:21; 1 Tim. 1:7)

B. A \_\_\_\_\_ idolatry (v. 24b)  
[Ex. 20:3-5; 32:1-6; 2 Kgs. 17:13-16; Isa. 40:8; Phil. 3:8]

### TAKE HOME:

- How can you keep from becoming \_\_\_\_\_ in your thinking and darkened in your heart?
- Are there any areas in your life right now, where you could \_\_\_\_\_ to be wise, but you have actually become a fool?
- Is there any regrettable \_\_\_\_\_ you have made in your own heart or life that you need to repent of?

## STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at [placiritachurch.com](http://placiritachurch.com).

1. Read Romans 1:21. Why doesn’t mankind want to naturally honor God or give Him glory? How do these cross references help explain that reality? (2 Tim. 3:13; Titus 3:3-5; Psa. 29:1-2; 1 Cor. 10:31; Rev. 4:11; Ex. 33:18-19; 34:6-7; Jer. 13:15-16; Acts 12:22-23; Matt. 24:29-30)

2. How did man become futile in his thinking? In what way was his heart darkened? In what ways is this happening today? (2 Kgs. 17:15; Jer. 2:5; Eph. 4:17-18; Eccl. 12:1, 13; Col. 2:8; Jn. 3:19-20; Matt. 6:22-23; Jn. 8:12; 1:14; Eph. 1:18; 2 Cor. 4:6)

3. In what ways does mankind claim to be wise? In what ways does this show his foolish heart? (Gen 3:5-6; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3; Jn. 17:17; Psa. 14:1; 74:18; Lk. 11:40; Jer. 10:14; 1 Cor. 1:20)

4. Why would man ever exchange God’s immortality for his own mortality? How can man be so deceived? (2 Thes. 2:3-4, 9; Dan. 4:31-32; Rom. 11:36; Eph. 3:21; 1 Tim. 1:7)

5. How does this spiral out of control with reprehensible idolatry? How do we address this? (Ex. 20:3-5; 32:1-6; 2 Kgs. 17:13-16; Isa. 40:8; Phil. 3:8)

6. Read the take home questions. Which one challenged you or encouraged you the most? Why? How will you live your life differently this based on what you have learned from this passage?

“...man becomes like what he worships. As his concept of deity degenerates, his morals degenerate also. If his god is a reptile, then he feels free to live as he pleases...”

- William MacDonald, Believer’s Bible Commentary