# “Understanding Unbelief—The Sad History of Mankind”

### Discovering the Righteousness of God—A study in the book of Romans

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# Romans 1:18-25 (ESV)

**18**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **19**For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20**For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **21**For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22**Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23**and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

**24**Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25**because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

**1) First comes the suppression of the truth (Verse 18-20)**

**2) Second comes the darkening of our hearts (Verse 21-23)**

**3) Third comes the dishonoring of our bodies (Verse 24-25**

# Luke 15:11-24 (ESV)

**11**And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. **12**And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. **13**Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.**14**And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. **15**So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. **16**And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

**17**“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! **18**I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. **19**I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ **20**And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. **21**And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ **22**But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. **23**And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. **24**For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.