

Sovereign Grace Church
“Knowing” outline
October 16, 2016

Romans 1: 18-21

The Reformation was in part the product of the Renaissance with its call to “return to the sources.” In other words, instead of relying on commentaries, let's read the original documents! This is why Luther's work is very dependent on the work of Erasmus who had just published the Greek New Testament prior to the beginning of his work.

Of course the Church did not see this as an unmitigated blessing....unless such sources were restricted to the authoritative teaching hierarchy of the Church. After all, the traditions of the Church had to be used in properly interpreting the original languages. Luther, on the other hand, thought that getting as much of the original Bible in the hands of the common man was necessary if the message of the Bible were to be effective. He thought that the traditions of the Church could be, and actually were, wrong and that the Scriptures had to be used to correct them.

Is the truth a treasure only discoverable by those properly taught? Or can “proper teaching” be an actual impediment to discovering the truth. Perhaps we can shed some light on this question by looking at Paul's treatment of knowing God in Romans One.

1. Knowledge Jms 2: 19

2. Everyone Knows that God Exists vv. 19-20

- **Justification Psm 19: 1-4; 104: 2**

- **What about God is revealed? Rom 2: 15; Psm 14:1; Jer. 9: 17**

3. Suppressing Knowledge v. 18c; Psm 14:1

- **How do we suppress knowledge**

- **Science and Paradigm Shifts**

- **What motivates people to suppress knowledge? v. 18b; Gen. 3:5**

4. Consequences of Suppressing Knowledge

- **No Gratitude to God 21a**

- **Moral Darkness 21b; 18a; Isa 5: 20; Col. 3: 1-3**

Questions to Enliven your Day & Prosper your Life

- 1. What sorts of things can you know? What sorts of things can't you know? How do you know?**
- 2. Look up an argument for God's existence and think it through. Do you find it convincing? Did they miss something? Is arguing for God's existence a subtle form of denying God? How do you know? If most people who argue for God's existence already know He exists, what are they trying to do?**
- 3. Can you think of a time that you suppressed something you really knew? How do we get ourselves in trouble by suppressing or re-interpreting truth? Why is it so difficult to discover our suppressing of truth? How can believers help each other with this problem? Should we be offended when we are criticized? Then why are we? How can we overcome this condition?**
- 4. How can even good desires become idols? What tends to happen when we don't get what we want....when we want it? How does our modern consumer-based; debt-based economy contribute to this form of idolatry?**
- 5. What does it mean to “cross wills” with someone? When was the last time that happened to you? How did it turn out? What did you learn about yourself that needs changing?**