



### Flow of Argument

- 1:16-18 – God's righteousness and wrath revealed
- 1:19-20 – How God is known by observing the created order
- 1:21-23 – The unrighteous and ungodly acts in abandoning God
- 1:24-32 – Consequences of rejecting God

- The knowledge of God (1:19, 21) – what is the meaning? Subject to numerous debates
  - Saving knowledge?
  - The place of natural theology – can people be saved by knowing God through the created order?
  - What does Paul mean?

- 1:21-23 – the root sin that dominates human beings and unleashes God's wrath
  - failure to glorify God and give thanks to him
  - the results:
    - they became vain in their reasonings
    - their foolish hearts were darkened
    - they became fools

- note the 3x use of *παρέδωκεν* "handed over" in 1:24, 26, 28; and also the conjunction *διό*

- sex as sin – sexual sin is the consequence of failing to acknowledge God?; or
- sin as sex – sin as failing to acknowledge God is described in sexual terms?
- Is Paul describing sin or sex?

- 3 questions for 1:18-32:
  - What is Paul describing here?
  - Who is Paul describing here?
  - What purpose is this description meant to serve in the larger argument of Paul in Romans 1?
- Please refer to sentence flow in the handouts

- Read Suetonius, *Gaius*.
- <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/suetonius-caligula.html>
- Read Philo's description of Gaius in *Embassy*, 14-15, 89-90, 97, 107, 118.
- <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/yonge/book40.html>

**End of Notorious Evildoers in Suetonius, Philo and Paul**

<i>Suetonius (Gaius)</i>	<i>Philo (Embassy to Gaius)</i>	<i>Paul (Romans 1)</i>
describes the arrogance and brutality of Gaius	describes the arrogance and brutality of Gaius	describes the injustice, impiety, arrogance and brutality of those who suppress the truth
possibly resulting from a brain sickness	the result of his refusal to honour God	as the result of their refusal to honour God
attributes his death to a conspiracy, but implying the consent of the gods	attributes his death to the manifestation of God's justice	attributes their punishment to the manifestation of God's wrath/justice/righteousness

- Note the specific sequence in Romans:
  - refusal to honour God
  - → descent into idolatry
  - → sexual outrages and degradation
  - → unrestrained ruthlessness
  - – seems almost a recital of the conduct of the imperial households

- Implications?

- Questions for Reflections**
- See handouts