

Eleutheros Newsletter

July 2023

News of Interest

Eleutheros Books is dedicated to offering literature and course offerings that will help believers to think Biblically.

Feel free to check out the following:

[*The Ramifications of Our Salvation*](#) explains what happens Biblically when a believer is saved by God's grace.

[*Bible Translations: A Closer Look*](#) explains the challenges translators face and gives reasons why the wording in some versions is so much different from that of other versions.

[*Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14*](#) deals with every phrase in these three chapters which are key to understanding the blessings and challenges of the gifts God gives to every believer.

[*A Portrait of Jesus*](#) looks at our great Savior for Who He is and what He has done (and will do) from eternity past to eternity future.

[*The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*](#) presents clear and important evidence for our Lord's resurrection, the greatest event in all of history.

[*19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity*](#) gives insights into many factors from the past that are still influencing the Church today.

All these books can be purchased by going to the website: www.eleutherosbooks.com.

Eleutheros Books is now offering online courses.

Would you or anyone you know be interested in learning more Bible?

How about learning more about salvation?

Or a course that deals with many issues the Church still faces today?

Currently offering: Soteriology 101, 102, and I Corinthians

Study at your own pace! <https://eleutheros-seminars.thinkific.com/>

The Ramifications of Our Salvation is now available in a Spanish translation (both in paperback and eBook formats)! To make a purchase, go to www.amazon.com and enter [Las Ramificaciones de Neustra Salvacion](#) in the search bar.

God willing, Spanish translations of *A Portrait of Jesus* and *19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity* will be available soon. Work is underway! Updates will be made available in future newsletters.

Thoughts on Romans

[1:26](#) *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections, for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature.*

Paul explained one of mankind's major problems in verse 25: *worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator*. Here in verse 26 the Apostle explains the *result* of man's sinful foolishness and rebellion ("for this cause"). When we humans attempt to give glory to anyone or anything other than the one true God there are serious consequences!

At what point God *gives up* people unto *vile affections* is not our choice. It is His choice! Our choice was to invent our own way of thinking which created a very bad relationship with Whom all glory is due (*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God—[1 Corinthians 10:31](#)*)!

It is interesting that the Greek verb here is παραδίωμι (paradidomi). This is the same word used to describe the betrayal of Jesus by Judas ([Matthew 27:3](#); [John 18:2](#)).

The phrase *vile affections* could well be translated *dishonorable passions*.

These ungodly emotions and lusts have horrible impact on both women (mentioned here in verse 26) and men (verse 27).

The word translated *change* could well be understood to mean "far beyond what is normal" and causes some women to practice lesbianism which is *against nature*.

There should be no doubt in the readers' minds that homosexuality (sodomy) is a major social sin in today's world.

It was practiced in the time of Abraham who pleaded to God for Lot, his family, and the city of Sodom to be spared from destruction.

Until recent days this practice was condemned and considered a serious mental disorder even by psychiatrists.

As a sign of today's spiritual degradation, it is now an "alternative lifestyle" and even though surveys indicate that only 2 or 3 per cent of the world's population practice this sin, politicians and influential people are actually promoting this perversion!

Making matters worse, medical personnel are now mutilating children's genitals and calling it "gender affirmation." There are schools that actually counsel young students to consider such an awful decision and won't even notify parents about their advice!

Readers, please do not ignore the trends of our day! We surely need to stand against the sexual sin that Paul discusses here in Romans 1!

As we take a stand against this sin, may we do so in Christian love (see [1 Corinthians 13:1-3](#))! This is a great challenge, but God considers these things disgusting. To honor His name, we should oppose this sin in a way that He would approve!

Perhaps the words of this great hymn will help illustrate what our response should be as we approach those who are involved in this awful sin.

*I was sinking deep in sin,
Far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained with sin,
Sinking to rise no more;
But the Master of the sea
Heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me,
Now safe am I.*

*Souls in danger, look above,
Jesus completely saves;
He will lift you by His love
Out of the angry waves!
He's the Master of the seas,
Billows His will obey!
He your Savior wants to be,
Be saved today!*

Love Lifted Me

James Rowe

We will continue these thoughts in next month's newsletter.