

Romans 1:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Analysis

Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Paul reiterates the root of the problem: hoitines metēllaxan tēn alētheian tou theou en tō pseudei (οἵτινες μετήλλαξαν τὴν ἀλήθειαν τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν τῷ ψεύδει, 'who exchanged the truth of God for the lie'). Metēllaxan (μετήλλαξαν, exchanged) echoes verse 23—another tragic exchange. Tēn alētheian tou theou (τὴν ἀλήθειαν τοῦ θεοῦ, the truth of God) is reality, divine revelation about God's character and creation. En tō pseudei (ἐν τῷ ψεύδει, for the lie) uses the definite article—the archetypal lie, the serpent's lie in Eden (Genesis 3:4-5), that creatures can be autonomous from the Creator.

They esebasthēsan kai elatreusan tē ktisei para ton ktisanta (ἐσεβάσθησαν καὶ ἐλάτρευσαν τῇ κτίσει παρὰ τὸν κτίσαντα, 'worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator'). Esebasthēsan (worshiped) and elatreusan (served) are religious terms reserved for God alone. Para (παρά, rather than/instead of) indicates substitution. Paul interrupts with doxology: hos estin eulogētos eis tous aiōnas. Amēn (ὅς ἐστιν εὐλογητὸς εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας. ἀμήν, 'who is blessed forever. Amen'). Even discussing idolatry, Paul cannot help but worship the true God—a model for believers to maintain God-centered perspective amid cultural darkness.

Historical Context

The exchange of truth for a lie characterizes every false religion and philosophy. Ancient Gnosticism claimed secret knowledge (gnosis) superior to biblical revelation. Roman imperial cult demanded worship of Caesar. Modern ideologies—secular humanism, materialism, relativism—are variations on the primordial lie that humans are autonomous. Every heresy exchanges biblical truth for falsehood. The remedy is clinging to the truth revealed in Scripture and embodied in Christ (John 14:6).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What specific truths about God, humanity, or morality is contemporary culture 'exchanging for a lie' (μεταλλάσσω τὴν ἀλήθειαν ἐν τῷ ψεύδει)?
2. How do you practically 'worship and serve the Creator' (σεβάζομαι καὶ λατρεύω τὸν κτίσαντα) rather than created things—time, money, relationships, self?
3. Why is it important to spontaneously ascribe blessing to God ('who is blessed forever, Amen') even in the midst of describing darkness?

Interlinear Text

οἵτινες	μετήλλαξαν	τὴν	ἀλήθειαν	τοῦ	θεοῦ	ἐν	τῷ
Who	changed	G3588	the truth	G3588	of God	into	G3588
G3748	G3337		G225		G2316	G1722	
ψεύδει	καὶ	ἐσεβάσθησαν	καὶ	ἐλάτρευσαν	τῇ	κτίσει	
a lie	and	worshipped	and	served	G3588	the creature	
G5579	G2532	G4573	G2532	G3000		G2937	
παρὰ	τὸν	κτίσαντα	ὅς	ἐστιν	εὐλογητὸς	εἰς	τοὺς
more than	G3588	the Creator	who	is	blessed	for	G3588
G3844		G2936	G3739	G2076	G2128	G1519	
αἰῶνας	ἀμήν						
ever	Amen						
G165	G281						

Additional Cross-References

Habakkuk 2:18 (Parallel theme): What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?

Jeremiah 13:25 (Parallel theme): This is thy lot, the portion of thy measures from me, saith the LORD; because thou hast forgotten me, and trusted in falsehood.

Isaiah 44:20 (Parallel theme): He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand?

Amos 2:4 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked:

Romans 9:5 (Blessing): Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

2 Corinthians 11:31 (Blessing): The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

1 John 5:20 (Truth): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Romans 1:23 (References God): And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

2 Timothy 3:4 (References God): Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Romans 1:18 (Truth): For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;