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The chapter is kinda a prelude to Paul's argument in Romans 1:18–25, which has a structure of Solomonic wisdom, within it, where created things are tools – never gods!

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¹ Surely vain are all men by nature, who are ignorant of God, and could not out of the good things that are seen know him that is: neither by considering the works did they acknowledge the workmaster; ² but deemed either fire, or wind, or the swift air, or the circle of the stars, or the violent water, or the lights of heaven, to be the gods which govern the world. ³ With whose beauty if they being delighted took them to be gods; let them know how much better the Lord of them is: for the first author of beauty hath created them. ⁴ But if they were astonished at their power and virtue, let them understand by them, how much mightier he is that made them.

Romans 1:20–21 They are without excuse... although they knew God, they glorified him not as God...

Natural forces like the sun, stars, metals etc. are only vessels for divine power; to elevate them as deities is a categorical error; man confusing channel with source! Welcome to the New Age!

V. 2 Elemental forces symbolize raw power, beauty, or motion—but they're not personal, they're not relational. Pagan idolatry misreads immanence as divinity - it's a case of spiritual misidentification.

For example Gevurah (power) or Tiferet (beauty) are not Elohim—but attributes—meant to point beyond themselves!

Acts 17:24, Paul rebukes the Athenians for worshipping celestial beings and "unknown gods," clarifying that "we are His offspring."

Creation is impressive, but it's not ultimate, a true king doesn't worship fire—he builds with it. That's what Solomon ends up doing.

V. 3 Beauty isn't the endpoint, but the trailhead!

יהוה is always greater than creation - He's transcendent yet immanent.

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above... from the Father of Lights

Yahusha is the radiance of the Father, not a reflection (Hebrews 1:3)

We can appreciate beauty, but we should worship who built it, not what shines and sparkles!

Mark 4:39 Moshiach commanded the wind and sea

And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, 'Peace, be still.' And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, 'Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?' And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, 'What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

Elemental forces (wind and sea) are addressed directly.

Yahusha doesn't pray to the wind—He commands it, as the one who has divine authority over it.

Later in Acts 3:6 – The Apostles Heal in the Name of Yahusha.

Then Peter said, 'Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Yahusha Ha Moshiach Ha Natzalet, rise up and walk.'

Peter doesn't act on personal power. He commands bodily restoration—a biological elemental force - in the name of Yahusha.

The authority flows from the Father, not the speaker.

If you're not moving in real power, the Ruach Ha Kodesh won't respect you!

Real power flows only from union with יהוה's authority, not from self-will or ritual precision alone!

Colossians 1:16 By Him all things were created... visible and invisible... and in Him all things hold together.

V. 5 looks into General Revelation - the creation reveals aspects of the Creator's nature; beauty, complexity, order = signs of intelligence, design, and purpose.

Psalms 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of Elohim...
Romans 1:20 His invisible attributes... are clearly seen

This isn't just a critique of ancient idolatry—it's a warning to modern minds who worship systems, tools, nature, or success instead of tracing all things back to their true Author.

⁵ For by the greatness and beauty of the creatures proportionably the maker of them is seen. ⁶ But yet for this they are the less to be blamed: for they peradventure err, seeking God, and desirous to find him. ⁷ For being conversant in his works they search him diligently, and believe their sight: because the things are beautiful that are seen. ⁸ Howbeit neither are they to be pardoned. ⁹ For if they were able to know so much, that they could aim at the world; how did they not sooner find out the Lord thereof? ¹⁰ But miserable are they, and in dead things is their hope, who called them gods, which are the works of men's hands, gold and silver, to shew art in, and resemblances of beasts, or a stone good for nothing, the work of an ancient hand. ¹¹ Now a carpenter that felleth timber, after he hath sawn down a tree meet for the purpose, and taken off all the bark skilfully round about, and hath wrought it handsomely, and made a vessel thereof fit for the service of man's life; ¹² and after spending the refuse of his work to dress his meat, hath filled himself;

The limit of sight, the lie of idolatry, and the craftsman's mirror come into view and shows us how misused beauty becomes spiritual poverty.

V. 7 "*Conversant*" = *living among, immersed in!* This acknowledges a sincere search for the divine through sensory beauty. But we know faith based only on sight is misguided—beauty can mislead if it's not interpreted correctly through the lens of Scripture!

2 Corinthians 5:7 We walk by faith, not by sight

Romans 10:17 Faith comes by hearing...not by sight alone

Just because something looks divine doesn't mean *it is* divine - surface worship is always a trap!

V. 8 Just because one seeks beauty, it's no excuse for rejecting truth!

There comes a point where spiritual ignorance becomes moral negligence.

Romans 1:20 They are without excuse... they did not glorify Him as Elohim.

1 Corinthians 1:20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Has not Elohim made foolish the wisdom of the world?

True knowledge is power—but if it doesn't lead to truth, it's false fire.

V.10 gold and silver - when dead materials are called upon to give life artistic brilliance becomes spiritual blindness when mistaken for divinity.

Acts 17:29 We ought not to think that the Godhead is like gold, silver, or stone... the work of man's hands

V. 11 when a skilled carpenter creates something useful this is right use of matter.

Exodus 25:2, 8–9

Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering: from every man whose heart moves him you shall take My offering... And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you... even so shall you make it.

The materials were to be freely offered, not scavenged or salvaged. Only specific items (gold, silver, precious wood, dyed skins, fine linen) were permitted—no scraps or refuse.

These were set apart (kadosh) for divine use—not dual-purposed with the ordinary.

Look at the Ark of the Covenant for example:

- It was constructed from acacia wood overlaid with pure gold, with precise dimensions and craftsmanship.
- The wood was not waste —*acacia (shittim) hardy, enduring, and chosen.*
- Bezaleel and Aholiab were anointed by the Spirit of Elohim (Ex. 31:2–6) for the craftsmanship—showing consecrated skill and intention.

Nothing is sacred unless יהוה sets it apart and the people participate by offering the best, not the leftovers.

To use mundane, unfit, or unsanctified material in the worship of YHWH is not merely incorrect—it's an act of spiritual violence against the order יהוה lays down.

Romans 9:21 Does not the potter have power over the clay... to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?

¹³ and taking the very refuse among those which served to no use, being a crooked piece of wood, and full of knots, hath carved it diligently when he had nothing else to do, and formed it by the skill of his understanding, and fashioned it to the

image of a man; ¹⁴ or made it like some vile beast, laying it over with vermilion, and with paint colouring it red, and colouring every spot therein; ¹⁵ and when he had made a convenient room for it, set it in a wall, and made it fast with iron: ¹⁶ for he provided for it that it might not fall, knowing that it was unable to help itself; for it is an image, and hath need of help.¹⁷ Then maketh he prayer for his goods, for his wife and children, and is not ashamed to speak to that which hath no life. ¹⁸ For health he calleth upon that which is weak: for life prayeth to that which is dead: for aid humbly beseecheth that which hath least means to help: and for a good journey he asketh of that which cannot set a foot forward: ¹⁹ and for gaining and getting, and for good success of his hands, asketh ability to do of him, that is most unable to do any thing.

Verses 13–14:

Taking the very refuse... a crooked piece of wood... formed it... to the image of a man or vile beast...

Acts 19:26 ...that gods made with hands are not gods.

Romans 1:23..exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image made like corruptible man... or beasts.

If it's broken when you start, don't be shocked when it breaks on you!

You can't build greatness from unworthy foundations.

Investing energy in false systems no matter how polished—leads to spiritual bankruptcy.

We understand divine power never needs assistance; false power always needs support and maintenance.

Isaiah 46:7

They lift it upon the shoulder... it stands, it cannot move. Though one cries to it, it cannot answer...

Unworthy foundations lead to fragile religion.

Jeremiah 10:2

Thus says the LORD: Learn not the way of the nations... for the customs of the peoples are vanity. A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman. They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move..."

This is a direct parallel to Wisdom of Solomon 13:15, which mocks the idol that must be nailed into place so it doesn't fall—a lifeless, unstable object propped up by its worshiper.

Jeremiah rebukes a people who *hold fast to deceit* (Jer. 8:5) and follow *lying scribes* who say “*Peace, peace, when there is no peace*” (v.11). These scribes—religious authorities—conceal apostasy behind the appearance of tradition.

The Council of Nicaea (325 AD) under Constantine, marked the formal institutionalization of Christianity. But instead of purifying the faith, it:

- Merged pagan customs with Christian language to unify the empire
- Adopted solar cult imagery (like December 25 as the “birth of the Sun”) and repackaged it as Christ’s birth.
- Allowed idols, icons, and relics to creep into public worship under the guise of honoring saints and martyrs

From this unworthy foundation, Catholic doctrine introduced:

- * The veneration of Mary and the saints
- * Purgatory
- * Sacraments as salvific
- * Papal supremacy
- * Graven images in “sacred space”

Remember: false power always needs support and maintenance.

Christmas must be annually resurrected by the church, advertised, scheduled, and emotionally charged—because it has no scriptural authority or covenantal power.

Contrast this with the Feasts of יהוה in Leviticus 23—YHWH's appointments, not man's inventions!

You shall worship יהוה your Elohim, and Him only shall you serve.”*

Matthew 4:10

The beauty of a season, the tradition of a tree, and the authority of a church council don't legitimize what יהוה has not commanded!

- Like Jeremiah, we need to speak truth to ritualistic lies.
 - Like Solomon, we need to mock the idols that need nails to stand.
 - Like the disciples, we need to walk away from broken systems and build spiritual power that doesn't need maintenance.
1. If your worship needs scaffolding every December, it might not be worship at all.
 2. If your worship can't stand on its own, it's probably not worship—it's a distraction.
 3. Propping up weakness to look like strength is a long-term liability.

The irony: V. 16 The idol is fully dependent on the worshiper, yet the worshiper treats it as divine.

This is a total reversal of the Creator-creature relationship—idolatry always inverts dependency.

Remember: *True divinity sustains, false gods drain.*

Psalm 115:5–8 (quoted in Romans 1) – ***They have mouths but do not speak... those who make them become like them.***

1 Timothy 4:10 We trust in the living Elohim... who is the Savior of all men.

Colossians 2:23 Condemns “will-worship” and “man-made religion” that appears wise but lacks power.

Why are so many frustrated in the church today? Well; misplaced faith leads to frustration. If you want real change, stop asking broken systems to heal you!