The Journey Away from God
Romans 1:19-32

Introduction:
A. Paul shows why all men need the gospel (cf. 3:10, 23)
   1. Gentiles (chapter 1).
   2. Jews (chapter 2)
B. Paul chronicles the Gentiles journey away from God.
   1. Once knew God (cf. Noah)
   2. Went so far away that God gave them up (vv. 24, 26, 28).
C. Paul describes four stages of the journey away from God.

Discussion:
I. They Disrespected God (v. 21).
   A. Knowledge without respect.
   B. Failure to glorify Him as God.
      1. By ignoring his position and authority.
      2. By attitudes toward worship and service (cf. Mal. 1:11-13)
      3. By living ungodly (1 Cor. 6:18-20)
   C. Failure to be thankful.
      1. For blessings
      2. For talents.
      3. For opportunities.
      4. Use them or lose them (Mt. 25:27-29).

II. They Suppressed God (vv. 28-31)
   A. Unbelief not due to lack of evidence (cf. v. 20).
   B. Had to suppress knowledge to practice sin.

III. They Replaced God (v. 21-25).
   A. Replaced the rule of God with:
      1. Own wisdom (vv. 21-22)
      2. Own lusts (v. 24).
   B. Replaced worship of God with idolatry (v. 23-25)
   C. God replaced today in more subtle ways:
      1. Humanism.
      2. Materialism.
      3. Hedonism.

IV. They Defied God (v. 32).
   A. Continued in sin, knowing the consequences (cf. Rom. 6:23)
   B. Approve of others who practice them (NKJ).

Conclusion:
A. If you still know God, glorify him while you still can (cf. Heb. 3:13; 2 Tim. 4:1-5)
B. If you are not glorifying him — repent and turn.