

- empty in their reasonings, and their foolish heart was darkened.
22 Claiming to be wise, they were made foolish,
23 And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into a likeness of the form of corruptible man and birds and four-footed animals and reptiles.
24 Therefore God delivered them up, in the desires of their hearts, to uncleanness, to dishonor their bodies among them;
25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Commentary:

Paul uses a very strong expression to describe God's attitude toward those who are suppressing or holding down (κατεχόντων) the truth in their unrighteousness. He says that God's wrath, His great anger (ὀργή) is being revealed against such persons. Why is this so? Paul says it is because that which is known of God is manifest among them, for God manifested it to them; and they are suppressing it.

What is known about God by human beings who are suppressing the truth? What truth do they know? What truth are they suppressing? Paul says that the truth of God's invisible power and divinity is known by means of the visible creation, and that this truth has been manifested since the world was created.

But are sinful human beings in contact with this truth? Paul says that they perceive (καθορᾶται), the truth, and understand (νοούμενα) it by the created things, to the extent that they are inexcusable. Why are they inexcusable? Because they not only currently suppress the truth, but when they knew God they did not glorify Him as God, nor were they thankful, but they became empty in their reasonings and their foolish heart was darkened. They claimed to be wise, but became foolish. Instead of having the Creator as the object of their religious worship, they chose images of His creation and worshipped them. Therefore God let them go their own way, to fulfill their own sinful desires. Paul says that they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature instead of the Creator.

Throughout the passage there are both present tenses and past tenses.

With regard to past tenses, in verse 19 God manifested His truth to men. Verse 21 says that at a certain point in their self-experience, these sinful men knew God, but didn't glorify