

# The Insanity of Ingratitude

Romans 1:21

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NEVADA • NOVEMBER 17, 2019

All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com. • This passage can be found in the Pew Bible, in the New Testament on page 119.

**I** cannot say anything much worse of a man than that he is not thankful to those who have been his benefactors; and when you say that he is not thankful to God, you have said about the worst thing you can say of him. – C.H. Spurgeon (circa 19<sup>th</sup> C.)



**In typical 19th-century fashion, Spurgeon goes on to show how God is treated by 'unthankful creatures' in Romans 1:**

God is despised.

God's day is ignored.

God's book is neglected.

God's Son is refused.

God's deliverances are forgotten.

## Study Section

**STUDY VERSE SECTION: Romans 1:21, NASB95** -<sup>21</sup> For even though they [all mankind] knew [had some experience/encounter God] God, they did not honor [lit., glorify] Him as God or give [a action verb—something we do] thanks [Gk: εὐχαριστέω, eu-cha-ris-TEE-ō, lit., a demonstration (not just a feeling) of gratitude], but they became futile [lit., vain, worthless, void of real wisdom (ATR)] in their speculations [Gk: διαλογισμός, dialogismós (dialog, "to talk"; agismos "nonsense"), and their foolish [lit., "a false conclusion" (Kittle), "in inability to discern the obvious" (ART)] heart [Gk: καρδιά, kardia, lit., the seat and center of a person] was darkened [cf., a moral darkness].

**Romans 1:21, NASB95** -<sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

**Romans 1:21, NLT** -<sup>21</sup> Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.

**Romans 1:21, NIV84** -<sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

**Romans 1:21, TLB** -<sup>21</sup> Yes, they knew about him all right, but they wouldn't admit it or worship him or even thank him for all his daily care. And after a while they began to think up silly ideas of what God was like and what he wanted them to do. The result was that their foolish minds became dark and confused.

**Romans 1:21, MSG** -<sup>21</sup> What happened was this: People knew God perfectly well, but when they didn't treat him like God, refusing to worship him or thank him, they trivialized themselves into silliness and confusion so that there was neither sense nor direction left in their lives.

**Romans 1:21, YLT** -<sup>21</sup> because, having known God they did not glorify Him as God, nor gave thanks to God, but were made vain in their reasonings, and their unintelligent heart was darkened.

## Life Application Section

### Signs of an Ungrateful Heart

**I** fear there are thousands who call themselves Christians, who are not thankful, and yet they never thought themselves very guilty on that account. – C.H. Spurgeon

1. When we receive from God's hand **daily blessings** without ever giving thought as to where they come from.
2. When we grumble about **what we don't have** rather than **what we do have**.
3. When we seek to **be thanked** rather than to **give thanks**.
4. When we admit and confess the insanity of ingratitude.