

Bible e-Study on the book of Romans (1a)

The Lie

“25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.” Romans 1:25

NUGGET – This still goes on today doesn't it? People the world over still prefer The Lie to the truth when it comes to God. Who wants to believe that God *IS*? And that *if* He is, who wants to believe that He is truly holy, righteous, or infallibly just.

To believe that is to acknowledge that there is a God and that God is the creator. To believe that means the creation is *less* than the One who created it. If that is so, then it is God who is the prime mover and creation did not happen of its own accord. God is then the initiator of all life, and the only single source of all that is known in all of creation. Creation and all creatures, especially humanity, are not independent of God.

To believe *that* is what St. Paul is talking about today. He's telling us that the Creator, that God has begun all things. And that God, *AS* Creator, is to be the only One Who is worshipped and served.

The Lie is that people have substituted the creation for the Creator. The Lie is that sin is not sin. The Lie is that God is not God.

Remember that The Lie *INTENDS*, *THE LIE INTENDS*, to both deceive (lead astray by being false) and to keep the truth about God darkened, obscured, muddled, and if possible hidden altogether. The Lie wants us to believe that *anything* or *anyone* other than God deserves our allegiance and obedience.

If we accept The Lie, if we deny the truth of God and that He is the creator, then we are left to find something or someone else to trust, believe and obey. That is what The Lie wants of us. That is how The Lie wins and we lose.

What St. Paul tells us today is that people have chosen The Lie and so denied God His rightful place as creator. The *result* of that choice is what we read in the verses surrounding this nugget verse today. People did and still do worship the creatures and other people. They worship in this way not for the sake of the creatures, the people or even themselves, but because they have accepted the deceit of The Lie.

The truth of God – that He is the kind and gracious Creator who is loving and forgiving – gets lost in the clamor for self. As we will read through the rest of Romans we will see that God triumphs over The Lie and frees people from their bondage to such base and vile ways. We will see that God is indeed *THE ONE* who is forever praised – Amen!

APPLICATION -

1. How does it feel to be lied to? There can be a sense of betrayal, of shame at being taken in, of anger at being fooled, and a loss of joy. As long as we are *BLIND* to The Lie we avoid those feelings. But having had our eyes opened to that lie, by the truth of the Gospel, those feelings are addressed and dissipated through the love of Jesus Christ that fills their place. By His willing sacrifice on the cross He has taken on the shame, the loss, the betrayal and anger in our place. For that reason we can joyfully give Him thanks for the light of revelation that He is our creator and our God!

PRAY – O Lord, Jesus Christ, continue to reveal to Your creation the love and righteousness that overcomes the lie that would separate us from You. We pray and give praise to God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit in Your strong name, Amen.