

Knowledge of the Non-Linear
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From Romans 1:18-23. KNOWLEDGE OF THE NON-LINEAR, PART ONE

#1. We define non-linear as something not predictable from a known context or from a type of equation.

#2. Example: The brain is composed of water, fat and protein. But putting those 3 items in a mayo jar does not produce mind. Mind is non-linear. It cannot be explained by what's in the jar.

#3. Have you ever asked yourself, "Why do I believe in God"? The answer is because you have an undeniable knowledge of the non-linear. In the words of Romans 1, "because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them" (v. 19.)

#4. We are confronted by a non-linear complex of

- A) knowledge of God's existence and
- B) the structure of conscience.
- "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse" (v. 20.)

#5. In other words, **you believe because you know**. Naturalism is the attempt to ignore this *instilled non-linear reasoning*: "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" (v. 21.)

The important words, "they became," tell us that Godless naturalism and atheism was not their starting point. They knew God was there. Instilled non-linear reasoning had to be eroded in order to accommodate their fleshly desires.

Atheism is a choice. It is not the result of the progress of science. You have reason and a right to your belief in God.

From Romans 1:18-23. KNOWLEDGE OF THE NON-LINEAR, PART TWO

#1. We are all obligated to believe in God; and there is something else (v. 18), which is that we have the right to believe revealed truth on the virtue of its nature (v. 19: "for God made it evident to them.")

And what is this self-evidence? It's nothing less than instilled non-linear reasoning.

#2. Occam's razor is a logical tool which stipulates taking the simplest, easiest, most obvious solution to any problem. Sound good? That depends upon the starting point for "logical reasoning."

Non-linear biblical reasoning has as its starting point what "God made" "evident" (v. 19.)

#3. But the world (the "them," the "they"-- v. 19,20) abrogates this universal starting point in favor of naturalism. They do so to break their guilt due to their behavior.

- "they are without excuse" v.20;
- "they did not honor Him as God" v.21;
- "Professing to be wise, they became fools" v.22.
- Unbelief is a choice. Unbelief, they think, gives them cover for their personal conduct.

But their corrupt minds are built on *suppression of non-linear reasoning*. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (v. 18.)

#4. We can handle these guys.

Romans 1:18-32. KNOWLEDGE OF THE NON-LINEAR, PART THREE

#1. Generalization from Scripture to material existence is inherently biblical non-linear reasoning. We must say this, because the power of God provides the source of the non-linear. With God all things are possible.

#2. The efficacy of prayer is built on this non-linear structure of reality.

#3. But the world rejected what has to be the revealed precondition of understanding: "and just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper" (v. 28.)

#4. The beginning state of reasoning for everyone is non-linear reasoning. But from there, thinking and behavior fell to the deficit of rationalism – which is nothing but human wisdom.

#5. Men convinced themselves that meaning is constructed by social interaction and is not revealed (v. 29-32.) Original non-linear reasoning died! Meaning became determined by man alone. The fear of God became meaningless baggage. People live "without understanding;" we become "untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful" (v. 31.)

#6. Culture and civilization begin to die. "The ordinance of God" (v. 32) intended to govern us through non-linear reasoning and its consort non-linear behavior. But men chose death instead.

The scent of death is in the air!