

**April 25th, Out of the Darkness**  
**Part 4 in the series 'New and Improving'**

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

What are some of the greatest achievements of humankind down through history?

What are some of the greatest atrocities humans have committed down through history?

**READ Romans 1:18-23**

**18** The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, **19** since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. **20** For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

**21** 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. **22** Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools **23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

What do you think Paul means when he says in verse 18 that people “suppress the truth”? Why might people suppress the truth about God?

What do you understand Paul to mean when he says in verse 21, “their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.”?

What might be equivalents today for exchanging “the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles” (v23)? What things does the world today worship instead of God?

How are wisdom and humility connected?

**READ Proverbs 14:12**

There is a way that appears to be right,  
but in the end it leads to death.

In the message, Jim said “There is also a way that seemed to end in death, but turned out to be the right way.” What did he mean by that?

**READ James 1:5-8**

**5** If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. **6** But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **7** That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. **8** Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

What stops people, including followers of Jesus, from asking God for wisdom?

A: pride, thinking you already have all the wisdom you need, thinking there's no way you could be wrong

On our journey from darkness into the light, what do we become more aware of regarding ourselves?

A: the more humble we become, as we become more and more aware of the magnitude of our weakness and fallenness and ignorance in the light of God's brilliance.

How do you think rooting your mind in love rather than fear is connected with wisdom and living in the light of God?