



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis
September 30, 2012
gospel in life –
Grace Changes Everything

desert breeze community church

Part 4: Idolatry – The Sin Beneath the Sin

Nothing can rob you of the fullness of life Christ came to give, except for idolatry. Idolatry is the sin beneath the sin.

Romans 1:16-32

What is Idolatry?

- It is to suppress the truth & be without excuse. Vv18-20; John 3:19
- It is to exchange the truth of God for a lie. Vv25a, 21; Rom3:23
- It is to worship & serve created things more than the creator. V25b; Ex20:3; Matt4:10

What are the Consequences of Idolatry?

Vv21, 24, 26-32; Gen3; Rom6:23

- Intellectual confusion and frustration. v21
- Emotional confusion and frustration. v21
- Bondages and addictions vv24, 26, 28
- Decay of personal and corporate life. vv29-31

How do I identify my idols?

vv21 futile thinking, darkened hearts, v24 lusts of their hearts, v26 dishonorable passions, v28 debased mind; Pro4:23; Col3:1-5; James 4:3-4; Luke 6:43-45; 900xs Heart is used in the Bible.

- Actions – what do I effortlessly spend my money & time for?
- Feelings – what stirs my deepest emotions?
- Thoughts – what dominates my thinking?
- Treasure - (Matthew 6:21) Whatever you treasure controls your Heart & whatever controls your Heart controls your life.

How do I Overcome Idolatry?

Vv21, 25; Ps 16:4, 8, 11; Col3:1-17

- Moral approach (Actions) “Stop acting like that!”
- Psychology approach (Feelings/Thoughts) “Stop feeling & thinking like that!”
- Gospel Approach (Treasure) What is operating in the place of Jesus Christ as your functional Lord & Savior?
 - Name the idols
 - Repent of the idols
 - Rejoice in Christ



Growing

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- 1)** What kind of pictures do you think the word idolatry conjures up in most American minds? Ex20:3 makes it clear that you will either worship God or some created thing (an idol), there is no third option. Explain. How big of a problem is idolatry in American culture?

- 2)** Read Romans 1:16-32. In defining idolatry, how do we suppress the truth & why are we without excuse (vv18-21)? How is verse 25 a great definition for idolatry? How would you put that in your own words? What are some American idols?

- 3)** What are the consequences of idolatry (Review the sermon notes & verses Vv21, 24, 26-32)? How does this help to answer the tough question of why there is so much suffering on planet Earth? How is idolatry the sin beneath the sin?

- 4)** How do these three questions help you to identify your idols? What dominates your thoughts? What stirs your deepest emotions? What do you give your time & money to? Apart from possible physiological issues how does inordinate anxiety, anger & depression help to identify idols?

- 5)** Why does the moral & psychological approach not work in dealing with idols & how does the gospel approach differ? What does it mean that Idols cannot be removed only replaced? How does rejoicing in Christ's satisfaction specific to the need I'm trying to meet through an idol, help me overcome that idol?