

Idolatry

Romans 1: 18-25

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Romans 1:18-25 (NASB)

**For the wrath of God is revealed from
heaven against all ungodliness and
unrighteousness of people who suppress the
truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because that
which is known about God is evident within
them; for God made it evident to them..**

Romans 1:18-25 (NASB)

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Romans 1:18-25 (NASB)

21 For even though they knew God, they did not honour Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened.

Romans 1:18-25 (NASB)

²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible mankind, of birds, four-footed animals, and crawling creatures.

Romans 1:18-25 (NASB)

24 Therefore God gave them up to vile impurity in the lusts of their hearts, so that their bodies would be dishonoured among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for falsehood, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.



Introduction

- Idol worship prevalent in ancient Rome**

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- **Idol worship prevalent in ancient Rome**
- **Wrath of God revealed against the ungodliness and unrighteousness of men**

Introduction

- **Culture of widespread idol worship does not appear to exist in modern society?**

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- **Culture of widespread idol worship does not appear to exist in modern society?**
- **How is the passage relevant in our modern world?**



Introduction

- What is idol worship or idolatry?**



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- **What is idol worship or idolatry?**
- **A sinful condition of the heart**

Road Map

a) What is Idolatry?

b) Where are our idols?

**c) What can we do to guard our hearts
against idolatry?**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

- Idolatry is valuing created things or beings more than God**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

- **Idolatry is valuing created things or beings more than God**
- **We are designed by God to depend on Him to meet our needs and wants**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

- Man was never designed to live independently from God**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

- Man was never designed to live independently from God**
- When we abandon God and deny Him we perish**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

- Prevailing world view today:**
 - God is not involved**
 - God is not honoured**
 - God does not exist**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

- World view of today largely shaped by the Enlightenment**

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 - Intellectual movement in the 17th and 18th centuries in Europe**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

- World view of today largely shaped by the Enlightenment**
 - Intellectual movement in the 17th and 18th centuries in Europe**
 - Use of reason, logic and science to challenge the authority and existence of God**

Romans 1:21-22 (NASB)

- 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honour Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened.**
- 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools...**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

- We are immersed in a culture that denies the God we worship**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

- **We are immersed in a culture that denies the God we worship**
- **What happened to those who denied God?**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

- We are immersed in a culture that denies the God we worship**
- What happened to those who denied God?**
 - They turned to idols**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

**Has the modern world
stopped worshipping?**

Romans 1:24 (NASB)

**24 Therefore God gave them up to vile
impurity in the lusts of their hearts, so that
their bodies would be dishonoured among
them.**

A decorative border at the top of the slide consisting of a dense layer of small, irregular pink and black particles, resembling confetti or glitter.

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

**Idolatry is a serious sin
in the eyes of God**

Exodus 20:3-5 (NASB)

**“You shall have no other gods before Me.
4 “You shall not make for yourself an idol,
or any likeness of what is in heaven above
or on the earth beneath, or in the water
under the earth. 5 You shall not worship them
nor serve them; for I, the Lord your God,
am a jealous God,**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

- God ask the Israelites to choose between a blessing and a curse (Deuteronomy 11:26)**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

- **God ask the Israelites to choose between a blessing and a curse (Deuteronomy 11:26)**
- **Idolatry is a curse**

1 John 5:21

Keep yourselves from idols

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Keep yourselves from idols

Colossians 3:5 (NSV)

**Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:
sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil
desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

- Idolatry hits at the heart of our relationship with God**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

- Idolatry hits at the heart of our relationship with God**
- He is a jealous God**

A) WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

**Idolatry tear us from our true
source of satisfaction and
fulfillment and destroy us
through deception and lies**

B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- Here in Singapore, we have many good things**

B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- Here in Singapore, we have many good things**
- Each and every good thing in our life can become an idol in our heart**

B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

I AM SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE

B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

❖ **Potential Idol #1:**

MONEY



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

❖ Potential Idol #1:

MONEY

- Money is important.



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- **TRUISM** > money is important



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- **TRUISM > money is important**
- **TRUTH > money will never be as important or more important than God**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- Idolatry over money is something that affects us regardless of whether we are rich or not**



1 Timothy 6:10 (KJV)

For the love of money is the root of all evil

B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- ALL OF US are at risk of money idolatry**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- Do we give to God regularly?



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- Do we give to God regularly?**
- Do we overspend on ourselves and underspend on others?**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- Always looking for the highest paying job?**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- Always looking for the highest paying job?**
- Overly driven by financial gain in our career?**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- Compromise on our values to seek maximum profit in our business?**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- Compromise on our values to seek maximum profit in our business?**
- Driven by greed in our investment decisions?**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- We cannot serve God and Mammon at the same time**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- We cannot serve God and Mammon at the same time**
- Money is intended by God to serve us, not the other way round**



1 Timothy 6:9 (NASB 1995)

... those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge man into ruin and destruction.

B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

❖ **Potential idol #2:**

ROMANCE



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- Romance is a gift from God**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- **Romance is a gift from God**
- **BUT, when we value our romantic interests and romantic feelings above God, it becomes a problem**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- Setting an impossible standard for our partners**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- **Setting an impossible standard for our partners**
- **Setting ourselves up for disappointment**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- We cannot expect our partners to bring us the fulfillment and satisfaction which only God can bring**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- Romance is not the ultimate goal in life**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- **Romance is not the ultimate goal in life**
- **Our ultimate satisfaction is found in the Lord, and our ultimate objective in life is to serve Him**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

❖ **Potential idol #3:**

CHILDREN



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- Children are a blessing from God**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- **Children are a blessing from God**
- **Parents nowadays would do almost anything for their children**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

How do our children become our idols?

a) When we become **overly**
obsessed about making them
happy



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

How do our children become our idols?

**b) When we look to them for love
and affirmation **more than** we
look to God**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

How do our children become our idols?

c) When we **over** micro-manage them



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

How do our children become our idols?

d) When we find ourselves
bragging **too much** about our
children.



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

How do our children become our idols?

e) When we **overly** enroll them for tuition and enrichment classes and push them **excessively** to excel.



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- Children are a blessing from God**



B) WHERE ARE OUR IDOLS?

- **Children are a blessing from God**
- **Do not let them become our idols**



C) WHAT CAN WE DO TO GUARD OUR HEARTS AGAINST IDOLATRY?



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- Be aware of our POTENTIAL idols**



C) WHAT CAN WE DO TO GUARD OUR HEARTS AGAINST IDOLATRY?

- **Be aware of our POTENTIAL idols**
- **Be conscious of the seriousness of the sin of idolatry**



C) WHAT CAN WE DO TO GUARD OUR HEARTS AGAINST IDOLATRY?

- The only way we can effectively guard our heart against idolatry is to fill it with God**



C) WHAT CAN WE DO TO GUARD OUR HEARTS AGAINST IDOLATRY?

- When our heart is cold or lukewarm towards God, it starts to conjure and manufacture all kinds of idols to replace Him**



C) WHAT CAN WE DO TO GUARD OUR HEARTS AGAINST IDOLATRY?

- Actively soak ourselves in God's love
and enjoy being dependent on Him**



C) WHAT CAN WE DO TO GUARD OUR HEARTS AGAINST IDOLATRY?

- Actively soak ourselves in God's love
and enjoy being dependent on Him**
- Constantly fall in love with God over
and over again**



C) WHAT CAN WE DO TO GUARD OUR HEARTS AGAINST IDOLATRY?

- We need to surrender our idols and allow God to restore our heart once again**





LET'S PRAY