

Intro:

READ WLC Q&A 109 Will group based on T. Ridgeley's 3 Heads: 1) Not attending solemnly; 2) Inventing ordinances not commanded; 3) Making images. Focus on "sacrilege" (contempt for holy).

Main Point of Text: Paul accuses the Jews of profaning God's temple in holy hypocrisy.

Sermon Point: *Honor God inside.*

Move 1: Do not worship with images.

Ridgeley: 3) "Making Images". Representing/worshipping. Acts 17:22 (superstitious) LC:

- "the making of any representation of feigned deities, and all worship of them, or service belonging to them". Don't have pagan souvenirs from your travels in your homes.
- "all superstitious devices" no good luck charms, relics of saints/martyrs.
- "the making any representation of God, of all or of any of the three persons": Ex. 20:4. God is in heaven, and everywhere. *Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.* (Acts 17:29)
 - "either inwardly in our mind": WSC 4 & 6. Danger of art/movies representing Christ.
 - "or outwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever; all worshipping of it, or God in it or by it". Ex. 20:5. Golden calf(s); Ex. 32:4, 8; 1 Kg. 12:28.

Move 2: Do not worship according to your imagination.

Ridgeley: 2) Invent ordinances not commanded (traditional "will-worship", Col. 2:21). LC:

- "all devising, counselling, commanding, using, and any wise approving, any religious worship not instituted by God himself; tolerating a false religion" (Regulative Principle).
- "corrupting the worship of God" (Purity of Worship). Puritans not imposing! Purifying/Freeing.
 - ... *they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.* (Psalm 106:39).
 - *Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it ...* (Deut. 4:2)
 - "adding to it". Five sacraments. Watching movie clips. Liturgical dance/calendars. Instruments.
 - "taking from it". Baptizing children of parents who are not church members (Acts. 7:14).
 - "whether invented and taken up of ourselves" Replace Spiritual Psalms w/ man-made songs.
 - "or received by tradition from others, though under the title of antiquity, custom, devotion, good intent, or any other pretence whatsoever". Habit not principle. Sincerity not genuineness. *But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.* (Matthew 15:9)
 - John 4:24.

Move 3: Worship God with reverence.

Ridgeley: 1) “Not attending solemnly”. Careless and indifferent manner. LC:

- “simony”. Vos: “ecclesiastical bribery” Term comes from Acts 8:9-24. Politicking for position.
- “... all neglect, contempt, hindering, and opposing the worship and ordinances which God hath appointed.” Not attending; when attend: disinterested, disrespectful, careless, disruptive, distracting.
- *Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible ... Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.* (Mal. 1:7, 13)
- *Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me ...* (Isaiah 29:13)
- “sacrilege”. Calvin: “a profanation of the Divine Majesty”. Vos: “treating what is sacred as if it were profane” Esau, Hebrews 12:16. Rom. 2:22:
 - Paul is proving everyone's need for Jesus: Gentiles (chp. 1) and Jews (Chp. 2): Rom. 3:23-24.
 - Vss. 17-23, Paul is pointing out they think they're good because of what they've inherited as Jews and teach others to do, but they do not actually practice what they preach. Not inwardly.
 - Situation spoken to by Christ: *All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.* (Matthew 23:3)
 - “adultery”: Matthew 5:28. “abhorring idols” but commit “sacrilege” (Greek: “rob temples”).
 - Hate outward images, but consumed with your self image rather than God's glory?

Conclusion:

Rom. 2:28-29: not about being here and doing your time. But being here and truly using your mind.

Honor God inside.