

Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 1:18-23 Depraved Mind, Heart, and Worship: Total Depravity

Because human depravity pervades the mind and heart to corrupt worship, the righteousness of God is our only salvation.

1) The depraved mind and distorted thinking (1:18-22).

- a) Undeniable Truth about God
 - i) General Revelation
 - ii) Man after God's Image
- b) Denying the Truth about God
 - i) Futile Thinking; Self-deception (v. 22)
 - ii) False gods
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Unbelief and false religion are inexcusable (v. 20).
 - ii) The gospel is power and revelation to redeem our depraved minds and to instruct our thinking.
 - iii) Redemption of the mind is like a Copernican Revolution in worldview: self is no longer seen as the center of the universe because one rightly perceives that God in Christ is central.

2) The depraved heart and darkened affections (1:21-23).

- a) Foolish Hearts
 - i) Godless Desires
 - ii) Godless Motives
- b) Darkened Affections
 - i) Bondage of the Will
 - ii) False Religion
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Humanistic psychology and psychiatry help people cope with one's own depravity in a fallen world but cannot afford redemption for the will.
 - ii) Homosexuality (1:26-27) illustrates the depraved mind and heart because it is so obviously contrary to nature (biomechanics).
 - iii) All sin manifests a depraved mind and heart (1:28-32). Therefore, sin must be repented and rooted out from the affections, not just from the surface thoughts, lusts, and behaviors.

3) The depraved man and idolatrous worship (1:21, 23).

- a) Total Depravity of Man: Missing the Mark of the Chief End of Man
 - i) Impiety (v. 21a)
 - ii) Ingratitude (v. 21b)
- b) Idolatrous Worship
 - i) The Tragic Exchange (v. 23, 25)
 - ii) The Fruit of Idolatry (vv. 26-32)
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Idolatry is liturgical.
 - ii) Idolatry is ethical.
 - iii) The idolater can be redeemed, but not idolatry.

Doxology: There is none like You, O LORD; You are great, and Your name is great in might. Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like You. They are both stupid and foolish; the instruction of idols is but wood! Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz. They are the work of the craftsman and of the hands of the goldsmith; their clothing is violet and purple; they are all the work of skilled men. But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure His indignation. (Jeremiah 10:6-10)