

SERMON PASSAGE – Romans 1:18-25 & Romans 3:21-24

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 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 men are without excuse.

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. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. (Romans 1:18-25)

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:21-24)

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

- the natural and only appropriate response to who God is
- singing? (easy to think we are just singing – but are we?)
- whole life (Col 3:17 & 23)

Worship is obedience

Adam & Eve
Cain & Abel

Worship is a political act

'Jesus is Lord' is a declaration of war

- we were created to worship
- we become like the one we worship
- Jesus died to restore us to communion with God in worship

Therefore the Enemy's greatest effort is to stop us worshipping, or to make our worship ineffectual (he tried it with Jesus in the temptation – Luke 4)

Can worship be anything other than 100%?

Problems with false worship

- freemasonry
- other religions / faith positions
- sacred objects (2 Kings 18:1-8)

AN EXAMPLE OF THE ENEMY'S TACTICS FROM EXODUS

Pharaoh realises that Israel's worship of God is a threat to his power – 4 times he attempts to prevent worship

First attempt – Exodus 8. 25

*Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God **here in the land.**"*

2nd attempt – Exodus 8. 28

*Pharaoh said, "I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the LORD your God in the desert, **but you must not go very far.**"*

3rd attempt – Exodus 10.11

*"No! **Have only the men go;** and worship the LORD, since that's what you have been asking for." Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh's presence.*

4th attempt – Exodus 10.24

*Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the LORD. Even your women and children may go with you; **only leave your flocks and herds behind.**"*

THE REASON FOR OUR WORSHIP

Romans 3:21-24

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

- 1 Read Rom 12, Col 3:17 & 23 How much of your life is worship?
- 2 As we approach the General Election, think about the reasons our political leaders seem to want to silence the Christian voice in this nation. Talk about my claim that worship is a political act
- 3 Where are you and **htcd** most at risk of false worship?
- 4 How does the Enemy try to stop you giving God what he deserves in worship?
- 5 How has worship changed you recently? If it hasn't, why?
- 6 How far does your worship take you?
- 7 In what sense are you at one with your fellow worshippers? If you sense a fragmentation, what is the Lord asking you to do about it?
- 8 Does worship stretch to your pocket? To your livelihood? To the way you think of your material resources?
- 9 Read Rom 3:21-24 and ask the Lord to give you a responsive heart for the gift of his Son