

Sermon Based Study

SERMON SERIES: When in Rome-Pay Attention

May 16-19

ONE CHURCH

Series Memory Verse

"To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 1:7

Sermon Scripture References Romans 1-2

Sermon Key Points:

1-Pay attention: God is real. (American Idols: Myself; Creation instead of the Creator; Gods made in our image)

2-Pay attention: Sin is a problem.

3-Pay attention: There is a Judge.

God is a revealing God. He wants us to know him. He makes himself known. We see him in nature, we see him in the order of creation, we see him in the interconnectedness of our own flesh and blood. God is a master craftsman. Even though the presence of God is obvious we often choose to worship other things. We exchange the glory of God for idols made in our image.

There are always consequences to misplaced worship. Created things can never satisfy the longings of our hearts. When we are driven by the worship of idols, we end up plunging into problems. Sin is a problem. Sin is anything we do that God does not want us to do and anything we do not do that God wants us to do. People pursuing their own selfish goals end up creating a world of every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. Sin creates a separation between us and God and between us and others. Sin starts to spiral and begins to infest every corner of humanity.

Sin is a human problem. All sin and fall short of the glory of God. It is easy to place ourselves into the judgment seat towards others, but we don't make good judges. God is the only good judge, and it is good news that he judges us not by our goodness but by Jesus' faithfulness. Everyone is in desperate need of God's grace. He is kind towards and others. When we hold others under the weight of our judgments, we show that we misunderstand the goodness of God. God's grace is meant to lead us to transformation. When we understand his love and forgiveness, it causes us to respond with awe and worship.

Personal Reflection:

1. What are some ways God reveals himself to people? Where do you most see God?
2. What causes people to suppress the knowledge of God? What are some American idols? What are some examples of gods made in our image?
3. Why is humanity prone to idol worship?
4. What is sin? Why/how does it wreak such havoc in our lives? What are some ways in which we weaponize sin? Why do we pick and choose which sins are better or worse? What is the danger of this?
5. How is it that we judge ourselves when cast judgement on others? What is the difference between judging sin and judging others? How are we to do well at making this distinction?
6. In what ways does the kindness of God lead us to repentance?
7. How does one pay attention to the presence of God in their everyday life?