

What was the point of the message on Sunday? If for some reason you missed it,

Here's The Point ...

“Christ Saves Us From False Worship.”

1. Christ Saves us From Boasting of a False Wisdom

How do we determine our idols? One of the ways is to look at what we are consistently boasting about. What are we constantly talking and daydreaming about? Paul writes, “Claiming to be wise they became fools” (v.22). The idea conveyed by this verb “claiming” is that one is speaking with an air of certainty. He or she is boasting about something with a high degree of confidence. In this case, it is a life apart from God, a wisdom apart from God. This was the temptation at the earliest stage. Eve saw that the tree was “desirable to make one wise” (Gen.3:6). Satan’s message has always been that there is a better wisdom, a better life apart from serving God, a life where good things become ultimate things, where something or someone else, besides God, becomes the center of who we are. Yet all our wisdom, outside of Christ (who is the wisdom of God – 1 Cor. 1:24) is nothing but the height of foolishness. “The fool says in his heart, there is no God” (Psalm 53:1), and then he lives for other things and boasts accordingly.

2. Christ Saves us From Bowing to False Images

We are all worshipers at heart. We are all wired to worship. We are all giving our lives to something. So when we think of bowing to false images or idols, we must not picture only primitive people physically bowing down before wooden statues in their villages or homes. The Bible speaks not only of wooden idols in our homes, but also cultural idols in our hearts. As it’s been said, “Today’s idols are more in the self than on the shelf.” Paul speaks of “exchanging the glory of God for images” (v.23). This is at the heart of idolatry. When man makes this exchange, his heart is captured by an image. Success. Appearance. Power. Love, etc. When these good images become “god” images, they become bad images, images that quickly turn into idols. But Christ saves us from giving our lives to these false images that promise to fulfill us, but leave us empty. Because He alone, who is “the Image of invisible God,” is the Image that we must set our minds and hearts on to find lasting joy, peace, and fulfillment.

3. Christ Saves us From Believing in False Promises

All idolatry begins by believing a lie. In verse 25, we read, “They exchanged the truth of God for a lie ...” When we believe the false promises of the world and give our hearts to other things beside God, believing that they will somehow give us the significance, security, and satisfaction that we long for, the truth of God is exchanged for a lie. However, praise be to God for sending His Son, who identified Himself as the Truth (John 17:3) and who saved us from the false promises of the world. By the Holy Spirit we were made alive to believe the truth of God in Christ. For, it’s in Him that “all the promises of God find their fulfillment” (2 Cor. 1:20). When we center our lives on the truth of God’s promises in Christ, and look to Him as the Image that moves our soul, we will no longer boast of a false wisdom, but will boast in Christ alone.