

**Sermon: Exchanging God for gods.**  
**Series: The Heart of Worship.**

**Scripture: Romans 1:18-25.**  
**Date: May 17, 2026**

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1. What does this passage teach us about us?**

a) Romans 1:18-25 describes our idol worship – worshipping the creation over the creator. This usually comes from our “lusts” (v.24) or “over-desires.” Are you able to identify the good things in your life that you allowed to become gods in your life? (Ask: What do I want most? What am I most worried about losing /not getting? I will be happy when I have \_\_\_\_ . I’ll trust God when \_\_\_\_ happens).

b) Pastor Mark said that one of our congregational idols is our musical worship. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? How can we tell when something has become an idol to us as a church?

**2. What does this passage teach us about God?**

a) Romans 1:24 teaches that nature reveals God to us all – “his invisible attributes.” What has been your own relationship with knowing God through nature? Does nature ever propel you deeper into knowing God through the word or through prayer?

b) Romans 1 describes God’s wrath as him “giving us over” to our desires. Have you ever experienced this – God allowing you to have the foolish thing that you wanted?

c) Read Rom. 1:25 again. The Creator is blessed forever. How does blessing God actually change our hearts so that our idols become less attractive? Have you ever experienced this?

**3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

a) Read Eph. 5:2 and Rom. 8:32. Thankfully, God doesn’t “give mankind up” to our own idolatry forever. He “gives Jesus up for us all.” In what way did Jesus take the wrath of God for us? What are the implications of this for our fight against idolatry?

**APPLICATION**

a) Consider also Galatians 2:20. Why is our co-crucifixion with Jesus the only real way to fight idolatry (remember crucified with Christ means we are dead to sin’s control and condemnation)? How is this different from “trying harder” or “behavior modification?”

**PRAYER**

- Praise God for mercy in salvation when we deserved his wrath.
- Confess ways you have worshiped good things over God himself.
- Thank Jesus for taking the wrath we deserve.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you fight idolatry by your crucifixion with Christ rather than by your own self-efforts.