

Romans 1:18–25 — WHY ROMANS?

Week 4 — Where Is Your Worship Going?

I. Opening Prayer

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand why Paul wrote Romans and what God wants to teach us through it.
- Ask God to help us remember that Jesus is enough, the Gospel is enough, and His grace is enough.
- Ask God to help us become a church that stays united, even when we are different.

II. Weekly Sermon Discussion (20–40 minutes)

Read the Scriptures and discuss what stood out to you from the sermon.

These are heavy verses, but they reveal something important about the human heart. As you discuss, keep bringing the conversation back to Scripture and application. If the conversation gets off track, ask: “How does this scripture apply to this?”

1. TRUTH REQUIRES A RESPONSE

Read: Romans 1:18–20

Paul says that God has made Himself known through His creation. The problem isn't simply that people don't know about God. Paul describes people who suppress the truth. When we know the truth, we are confronted with a decision about how we will live. Truth doesn't just inform us; truth calls us to respond.

- What does creation reveal about God according to verses 19–20?
- Why do you think people sometimes choose to believe something they know isn't true?
- Is there an area of your life where God has shown you truth that you need to respond to?

2. WE WERE CREATED TO WORSHIP

Read: Romans 1:21–23

Paul shows that humanity's problem isn't that we stopped worshiping. We were created to worship. The problem is that we can take something God created and give it the place that belongs to God alone. Instead of worshiping the Creator, we begin worshiping the creation.

- What does it mean that every person was created to worship?
- Why are created things so easy to worship?
- What is the difference between enjoying something God created and worshiping it?
- What are some warning signs that something is becoming more important to you than God?

3. IDOLS DON'T HAVE TO LOOK LIKE STATUES

Read: Romans 1:23, 25

When we hear the word “idol,” we may picture a statue. But an idol is anything we give the place, attention, devotion, or priority that belongs to God. Relationships, family, careers, sports, possessions, success, comfort, and even our own desires can become things we worship. The question isn't whether we worship. The question is what has our worship.

- What are some modern-day idols that people can worship?
- Why can good things become dangerous when we give them the place that belongs to God?
- How can we recognize when something has begun competing with God for our attention?

4. GOD'S JUDGMENT CAN LOOK LIKE BEING GIVEN OVER

Read: Romans 1:24–25; 2 Peter 3:9

Paul says that God “gave them over” to their sinful desires. This doesn't mean God suddenly lost His patience. Paul is describing what happens when people continually reject God and insist on their own way. Sometimes God's judgment is allowing us to experience the consequences of what we repeatedly choose. Yet God is patient and desires people to come to repentance.

- What does it mean that God “gave them over”?
- Why is sin destructive even when it initially feels satisfying?
- Why is repentance such an important part of following Jesus?
- Is there an area where you need to stop insisting on your own way and surrender to God?

5. WHERE IS YOUR WORSHIP GOING?

Read: Romans 1:25; 1 John 2:4

Paul is revealing something that can happen in every human heart. We can become comfortable with God being our Savior while failing to let Him truly be our Lord. Following Jesus means giving Him our full attention, devotion, and worship. The goal isn't simply to believe that God exists. The goal is to live surrendered to Him.

- What is the difference between Jesus being your Savior and Jesus being your Lord?
- What does giving God your full attention, devotion, and worship look like in everyday life?
- What is one thing competing for your worship that you need to surrender to God?

III. Share & Prayer (20–40 minutes)

Time to “take off the mask”! Jesus doesn't want us to be hypocrites who wear masks.

- How are you really doing spiritually right now?
- Where do you need to remember the Gospel?
- Are you struggling with condemnation, fear, division, pressure, or doubt?
- What is one promise from Romans you want to hold onto this week?
- How can your Group support you and pray for you?

When sharing prayer requests, include your personal prayer needs. Rather than simply sharing information about someone else, include how you are personally being affected and where you need God's help.

Have someone, or everyone, close your time by praying for one another.