

Passage: Romans 1:16-23; Nehemiah 9:33-36

Living as a part of God's creation

Read Romans 1:16-23. This is the passage that we have been talking about for the last two weeks. How do we redeem the creation of God? How do we live in a way that glorifies God for his creation?

Last week we talked about glorify God with our work, which for us is school.

- School is a good thing as should be viewed as such. However school is not our life and should not become our obsession.
- It is good to get good grades, but when you start basing your identity on your grades and accolades you are looking to something that can never fill you.
- We desperately need Jesus Christ to provide our worth, so we can go to school for the purpose of redeeming creation.

Enjoying God through relaxing and having fun

How many of you have heard someone say that they don't want to become a Christian because they think that they will have to give up all of the fun stuff that they do? Maybe you have even thought that.

- Part of our misuse of creation is the wrong view that the world and many Christians have on pleasure and relaxing activities, or your "fun time".

Our culture has a serious problem with letting pleasure and amusement get out of hand. Countless books have been written on both yours and my generation.

- Books about people getting stupider and our need for more and more entertainment fill the shelves at bookstores. The problem is that they are right, we are far too preoccupied with amusing ourselves.

This is not a new problem, though, as these books would suggest. Read Nehemiah 9:33-36. This is the Israelites confessing their sins. The problem is the same, they are enjoying God's creation but not honoring God in doing so. So how do we glorify God in our "fun time".

Look at verse 36, God gave us things to enjoy. God commands us to take time to relax and shows this in his creation of the Sabbath day.

- Being a Christian doesn't mean that you can only do stuff having to do with church or work. We should be doing fun, relaxing things. Being a Christian means that we can actually truly enjoy things more than people who do not know God, but we have to watch out that our thinking doesn't follow the world.

Watch out that pleasures don't turn into obsessions. If you are constantly thinking about the next time that you can play a new video game, or the next time that you can play some sport, or whatever, these things are becoming obsessions. If you enjoy riding your bike for relaxation that's great, but it becomes an obsession when that's all you think about and want to be known as this top notch bike rider.

Make sure that pleasures don't turn into something you do to relieve depression or anger. They cannot ultimately do this, only Jesus can. With a right view of God, though simple pleasures can really help.

Don't try to turn things into amusement park rides that are not supposed to be, like school and worship.

Your hobbies cannot provide you with satisfaction and comfort. They are just simply pleasures that God has given us to enjoy. Our sin makes us replace God with these pleasures. To enjoy them we have to have a right view of God, Jesus Christ provides us with comfort and security that no fun thing ever could. Don't try to look to pleasures to give you something that only Christ can.

- You were not put on this earth to serve yourself, you were created to serve God.