

**Passage:** Romans 1:16-23; Genesis 1:26-28

### **Acknowledging God as Creator**

Read Romans 1:16-23. Last week we talked about this passage and how it reveals the attitude that someone has towards God's creation because of their sin.

- First and foremost, we want to make sure that we are acknowledging God as the creator of the universe.
- We also need to hold to that, as Paul says in verse 16, so that we are not ashamed of the truth.
- To ignore this means that God's wrath (holy judgment) is held against us, and that is not a good position to be in. We need Jesus Christ to be free from that thinking.

### **How are we to live then?**

Read Genesis 1:26-28. The purpose of man is to rule and subdue the earth. Ok what does that mean?

- Basically to use the earth to live, eating what it produces, seeking to understand the way different processes work, and to not make a squirrel your king, you know stuff like that.
- It does not mean that you abuse creation like killing all kinds of animals for no reason or something like that.

One way that we fulfill this is getting a job that is beneficial to the creation of God, and we work in such a way that it is beneficial to the creation of God. The trick is not separating what you do in life with your spiritual life, so what do you do in life?

- Now, you probably don't have a job at this point, and if you do it is something part time and not really your choice for a career. You do however go to school, which is preparation for living as an adult.
- How are we to think about school, and how do we go to school for the glory of God?

First of all we must realize that God did not create school to make us miserable.

- School prepares us to be able to function in the world, in God's creation. Everything belongs to God, and it is part of our responsibility to redeem creation for God. Using school in the right way puts us in a position to redeem it back to God.

You want to stay away from two opposite views that are both equally wrong.

- One is that school is the end all be all of everything and that you must be a part of the honors society and be involved in as many extracurricular activities that you can so that you can get to the absolute best college in the whole country.
- The other is exactly the opposite, you skip school all the time, do not try on your tests, never do homework, and have the attitude that school is the biggest waste of time that there is and that you will never need anything that you learn in school.

There is no clear cut way to tell you how to go to school, but it is necessary that you work hard, and that you keep it in its place.

- Some assignments you will have to work for a while on, but some extra things are not necessary.

In the passage Paul talks about making creation an idol. School becomes an idol for people even when they are not doing it on purpose.

- It becomes an idol because we use it just to make ourselves look superior to the rest of the world, and we just do things to make our name look good (all the extra things that we do just to have a good transcript, etc.) School is not our identity.

How do we not make it our identity? We have to remember that our identity comes from Jesus Christ, that is how we can put school on the right spot.

- School is a great opportunity to show Christ in a community of people that you see everyday.