

The Glory of Christmas
December 9, 2012

Why don't we all live for God's glory?
Romans 1:18-25



Glory. We hear it in some of our favorite Christmas carols. The angels proclaim it in the story of Christmas. We even sing about it ourselves. Yet what exactly is glory and what does it have to do with Christmas? Even still, what difference does it make, really? Join us for this five week series and discover the wonder! You will never be the same again!

Discussion Questions: (Leaders please review each question and pick those that will be most beneficial for your group.)

1. Read Romans 1:18-25. This passage tells us that apart from the transforming power of God, every human heart is utterly and totally depraved, and this includes you and me. How depraved are we? Give examples of the total depravity of man.
2. From this passage we see three realities of every human heart apart from God (note how these get progressively worse): First, **we reject God by suppressing the truth about him** vv.18-21. Why is all humanity without excuse when it comes to knowing God?
3. According to v.21, the reason we suppress the truth of God is our unwillingness to glorify God and thank him. How is this like plagerism? What is the underlying problem in every human heart that keeps us from living for God's glory?
4. The second downward step of every human heart apart from God is this: **we worship idols instead of worshipping our Maker**, v.23. Whenever we look for someone or something else to give us what only God can provide (i.e. meaning, purpose, significance, acceptance,) we worship idols. Be honest. To what something or someone do you look to find what only God can give you?
5. The third reality of the human heart is that **we become slaves of the idols we worship**. Specifically, this happens as . . .
 - God gives us over to the sinful desires we most crave v.24.
 - we exchange the truth of God for a lie – (i.e we live in self-denial) V.25a.
 - we become a slave to that which we worship, 25b.How is this process similar to the downward spiral of an addict?
6. Because we reject God, worship idols and serve created things instead of the Creator, the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven (v.18a). This is the sad reality of every human being apart from God. Yet the end of v.25 says God *is forever praised*. The only way anyone can be transformed from worshipping created things to worshipping the Creator is by responding to God's special revelation of the good news of Jesus Christ. Into what dark corner of your heart is God shining his light today? Will you respond by telling someone, today I am turning from _____ and trusting in Jesus by faith to forgive my sins and to give me the power to obey him?