

# prayer meeting & bible study

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We will start at 7.30pm

A close-up photograph of a person's hand using a wooden-handled trowel to smooth a surface of wet concrete. The concrete is contained within a wooden formwork. The background is blurred, showing other people and an outdoor setting. The lighting is natural, suggesting daylight.

# foundations

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an overview of christian teaching

# everybody worships

Where does the idea of God come from?

Freud: to justify ourselves

Marx: to preserve the elite

Nietsche: to control everyone

Bible says it is universal, intuitive, rooted in who we are as creatures made by God, to know God

Romans 1.20-25 is a key passage

# 1. we all have a sense of God

God himself, to prevent any man from pretending ignorance, has endued all men with some idea of his Godhead . . . this is not a doctrine which is first learned at school, but one . . . which nature herself allows no individual to forget

John Calvin

since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made

Romans 1.20

## 2. but it is fallen like the rest of us

In Eden it was crystal clear and full.

But when sin entered the world everything was clouded.

although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened

Romans 1.21

Now we still have a sense of God.

But it is vague and shadowy.

It is mixed with superstitions.

We twist it to our own ends.

This is where Freud, Marx & Nietzsche have got a point!

# 3. but worship doesn't go away

when people stop believing in God,  
they don't believe in nothing, they  
believe in anything

GK Chesterton

If you stop worshipping God you  
don't stop worshipping, you just  
worship something unworthy.

Although they claimed to be wise,  
they became fools and exchanged  
the glory of the immortal God for  
images made to look like mortal man  
and birds and animals and reptiles . . .  
They exchanged the truth of God for a  
lie, and worshipped and served  
created things rather than the Creator  
- who is forever praised. Amen.

Romans 1.22-23,25

# 4. so we worship anything

An idol is anything in our lives that occupies the place that should be occupied by God alone . . . anything by which I live and on which I depend

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

man's nature, so to speak, is a perpetual factory of idols

John Calvin

Worship is everywhere.

Our problem is not lack of worship.

It is that we worship the wrong things.

Our lives are infested with idols.

Our communities are built upon them and around them.

# 5. that is a big problem

their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.

Psalm 115:4-8

When an idol gets a grip on your heart, it spins out a whole set of false definitions of success and failure and happiness and sadness. It redefines reality in terms of itself.

Tim Keller

Better know what yours are



**6. christianity is the recovery of true  
worship**