

**THE WEEK OF  
April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010**



**Jesus  
Vs.  
The American Idolater  
Part 4  
Romans 1:18-32**

**"because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened...Therefore God gave them up to uncleanness, in the lust of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves...For this reason God gave them up to vile passions...God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting."**

***Romans 1 (excerpts)***

Idolatry, as we've seen over the past 3 weeks, comes in many forms. It's a corruption of the desires and motives that God has given us to be focused on Him. So what are the consequences for our idolatry? If we really are His children, will He not discipline us? The answer is yes. But our discipline may not be in the form that we think. Often we imagine the Lord reaching a giant hand from heaven and administering a holy spanking. And at times He does do this. But Romans 1 reveals a much different form of judgement or consequence. It can be summed up in the phrase, "God gave them over...". In the first chapter of Romans we find this phrase repeated 3 times. It's an interesting idea in light of the common understanding of judgement. God at times has rained down supernatural judgement in the form of fire, plagues and famine, but this is very different. It comes in the form of reaping. God has designed and imbedded in His creation a natural order of things that when we violate His order there are consequences. "A man reaps what he sows". As it is in farming so it is in life. So what are you sowing? What are you reaping? Have you noticed that the fruit of your life is calamity, disorder, disfunction, worry, anger, unrest, discontentment? Maybe there is some idolatry that you need to address. Take some time to consider if you are not reaping what you've sown. Cleanse the idols out of your life and be purified and holy before our loving Father.

**Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day *example:*  
*If it's the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)***

**Mon:** Romans 1:18-32

**Tue:** Matthew 4:1-4

**Wed:** Matthew 4:5-7

**Thu:** Matthew 4:8-11

**Fri:** Romans 8:1-11

### **Discussion Questions for Bible Café:**

1. Although the context of Romans 1:18-32 is the unbeliever, we find an interesting form of judgement, what is it? Did you experience this as an unbeliever? Does God's discipline include this now that you're a believer?

2. What is the purpose of God's discipline? Does God condemn us for our idolatry? Who condemns? (See Romans 8:1)

**Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):**