

Group Resource

Sermon Notes – Sunday, October 7, 2012

FINDING THE ONE AND TRUE GOD

Message: “Imported from the Kingdom of God”

Scripture: Acts 17:24-25

- I. In 2011, Chrysler Corporation introduced a trademark ‘Imported from Detroit’, which represented a return to the historic roots of quality, style and craftsmanship uniquely known throughout the years about Detroit automobiles.
- II. Trademarks are used to identify authentic products of a creator. God’s identification mark for those who belong to him would be identified as ‘Imported from the Kingdom of God’. We are a royal priesthood, God’s very own creation but we are not of this world. (1 Peter 2:9, Hebrews 11:13-16)
- III. Imported from the Kingdom of God means that ...
 - a. ***We are purposefully created by an infinite God to reflect his image in the earth (Acts 17:24)***
 - i. One writer said “God makes people—people do not make God.” When we make our own gods, they are always inferior to the eternal God that is revealed in the Holy Scriptures.
 - ii. The Apostle Paul notes that God, who made everything in the heavens and the earth, purposefully formed us in His image.
 - b. ***We serve a God that is bigger than us (Acts 17:24-25)***
 - i. When we blindly give ourselves to people/things without considering whether these things are worthy of our affection, we spend time worshipping gods that never should have been worshipped. We can unknowingly worship at the altar of the god of beauty, riches, pride, fear, and others.
 - ii. Day after day, the Apostle Paul saw people run after gods that “lived in human temples” and would not exist “without human servitude” and let them know that they were giving away their most prized possession – their life – to a counterfeit. “Greek religion was nothing but the manufacture and worship of gods who were patterned after men and who acted like men.”
 - iii. The God revealed in the Scriptures is bigger than any god that man can create.
 - c. ***Our greatest act of worship is to glorify God in everything that we do (Acts 17:25)***
 - i. True worship is in obedience rather than sacrifice. We must respond to what God has revealed about himself, his creation and his ways.
 - ii. As we walk in obedience to God’s instructions, we bear God’s signature trademark that we are authentically created by Him and placed on this earth to reflect His glory.

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Let's Talk Notes – Week of October 7, 2012

Message: “Imported from the Kingdom of God”

Scripture: Acts 17:24-25

- 1) If you could import something (*e.g.*, food, car, product, culture, music, landmark, city) from another country what would it be and why?
- 2) As you reflect back on last weekend's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp?
- 3) Have you ever found out that something you were using or purchased was counterfeit or defective? How did it make you feel?
- 4) **Read Exodus 32:1-9, 21-24.** What prompted the people to create their own gods rather than worshipping the true and living God? How can fear and uncertainty lead us to create idols in our lives? What are some idols that we can create to bring comfort to our lives?
- 5) Imagine you have a friend that was exploring Christianity, how would you describe how the God revealed in the Scriptures (Acts 17:24-25) is different from all other gods?
- 6) In Acts 17, the Apostle Paul says that God “gives all men life and breath and everything else.” How does a relationship with God sustain you? Is your life different with or without God? Does your life show that you need God to sustain you daily or is your life self-sustainable?
- 7) One of the distinguishing marks of being ‘Imported from the Kingdom of God’ is that God transforms your life day-by-day. What are some areas in your life that God has transformed? What are some areas that God is continuing to work on? Are there areas in your life in which you are resisting God's change in your life or in which the change seems too difficult?