

6/4/17 | Etched in Stone: Accept No Substitutes



"They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen."

—Romans 1:25 | NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever tried imitation foods (margarine, Cool Whip, bacon bits, kamaboko, etc.)? How did they compare to the original?
2. Have you ever tried substituting ingredients when cooking? How did the meal turn out?
3. Have you ever tried substituting something else in place of God? What happened?

4. Consider this quote. What does Spurgeon mean by calling everything empty?

"Nothing teaches us so much the preciousness of the Creator as when we learn the emptiness of all besides."
—Charles Spurgeon

5. Is it wrong to value things? At what point do they become idols? Are they ever idols as long as we place them after God?

Serve God only!

6. Read **Romans 1:25**. What does this verse mean to you?
7. After reading and discussing the following words and brief definitions, answer these questions:
 - a. Why did Paul use this word in Romans 1:25?
 - b. Does this change the way you think about idols?

-Truth (Greek *aletheia*) – what is true in any matter under consideration; what is true in things appertaining to God and the duties of man, moral and religious truth; the truth as taught in the Christian religion, respecting God and the execution of his purposes through Christ. Read **John 8:32**, which uses the same Greek word.

-Lie (Greek *pseudos*) – conscious and intentional falsehood; conscious and intentional falsehood; of perverse, impious, deceitful precepts. Read **2 Thessalonians 2:9-10**, which uses the same Greek word.

Serve (Greek *latreuo*) – to serve, minister to, either to the gods or men and used alike of slaves and freemen; to render religious service or homage, to worship; to offer gifts, to worship God in the observance of the rites instituted for his worship. Read **Matthew 4:10**, which uses the same Greek word.

Praised (Greek *eulogetos*) – blessed, praised. Read **Luke 1:68**, which uses the same Greek word.

8. Read **1 Samuel 5:1-5**. What words would you use to describe your worship of God? What attributes of God inspire you to worship Him?

What attributes of created things lead you to serve them instead of their Creator?

TAKE AWAY: Ask the question. Fill the gap. My next step is _____.