

Babel

INTRODUCTION

The builders of the Tower of Babel unite to dishonor God by rejecting the truth of who He is and attempting to replace Him through Pagan idolatry.

DISCUSSION

What is the heart of Paganism?

In what ways is paganism still present in our culture today?

Have you ever done anything thinking that God may be obligated to bless you?

EXPLANATION

How is God's grace manifested in the judgment of the Babel builders?

What things do we rely on that take the place of trusting God's power in our lives?

Does God need us?

APPLICATION

In what ways do Christians try to manipulate God?

How do we avoid a deficient and diluted view of God?

MISSION

How can we demonstrate the truth about the nature of God to contrast the paganism in our culture?

Week 18

FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION



Genesis 10:1-11:9



Psalm 2:7-8
Genesis 9:19
Genesis 10:1-11:9
Genesis 9:1
Romans 1:21-25
Psalms 50:7-15
Psalms 37:5
Revelation 5:9



Week 19
SERMON OUTLINE

Babel

“I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.” Psalm 2:7-8

In Genesis Chapters 10-11 we see how the various nations, peoples, and languages began. As the second starting point for human history after the flood, we follow the line of human history through the three sons of Noah. We see that all of the known peoples and nations resulted from the blessing God had established from the beginning as they multiply and fill the earth.

Up to this point in Genesis, Moses traces the advance of sin from the initial disobedience of Adam and Eve, through family violence and repression in society, to the total corruption that led to the flood. We see this constant movement away from God and a corruption of human conduct. The builders of the Tower of Babel go even further; not only is humanity corrupted, but their view of God is distorted and twisted beyond recognition. Beyond being morally and socially destitute, they’ve gone down a road that will make them theologically destitute. They’ve lost any realistic sense of who God really is! The Tower of Babel story relates the advance of Paganism and their attempt to institutionalize it.

At the core of Paganism is the belief that the gods have needs. The aim of their worship was to meet those needs. They needed to be fed, clothed, and housed. They were pampered, patronized, and manipulated. This is the heart of Paganism-It’s not the perversity of the rituals, it’s the degradation of deity. They distinguished their gods by their perceived power rather than by their character and transcendence and autonomy that belong only to the one true God.

The Apostle Paul describes root of the issue in: Romans 1:21-25 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God

for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen

God makes his expectations and his character very clear to Israel in Psalms 50:7-15 letting them know that He has no needs; the cattle on a thousand hills and every other created thing belongs to Him, and he cannot be manipulated.

We all have a least a seed of paganism within us that shows when we view God as limited, when we try to get him to respond to us on our terms, when we view him as needing us or our abilities, or when we try to make him do what we want him to when we want him to.

By nature we are all pagans caught in the Babel syndrome. When we think that we can manipulate God by praying in Jesus’ name to achieve our selfish desires, or when we “claim promises” to try and make God do what we want him to do, our paganism is showing. When we think God needs us because of the money we give, the talents we have, or the ministry that we do our paganism is showing.

We want a manageable “God-lite.” We want to harness His power for our own benefit, no strings attached. Our society has dealt with child abuse and spouse abuse, but this is “God abuse!”

How do we protect ourselves from adopting a diluted view of God? The only way is to constantly get a renewed vision of His sovereignty, transcendence, and power. We need to be in the Scriptures regularly for the purpose of finding out who God really is and what He’s really like. If we want to prevent ourselves from settling for the paganism of a watered-down version of God, we must reconnect with God’s revelation of himself in the Bible and then bring more and more of our lives into orbit around Him as the center of our universe.