



Presence

MVP OF THE HEART

Romans 1:16 – 26

February 8, 2026

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MESSAGE NOTES

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. – Romans 1:16 (ESV)

- **Wake Up to God's Presence**

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. – Romans 1:18 (ESV)

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. – Romans 1:19 – 20 (ESV)

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. – Romans 1:21 (ESV)

- **Break Free from Our Idols**

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. – Romans 1:24 – 25 (ESV)

The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths. Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them. – Psalm 135:15 – 18 (ESV)

- **Live a Life of Endless Praise**

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)



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MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week's message from Romans 1:16–26 explored what it means to live an unashamed life centered on the gospel. Paul shows that every heart is shaped by worship, either of the Creator or created things. We looked at three markers of an unashamed life: waking up to God's presence, breaking free from idols, and living a life of endless praise. Through Christ, our misplaced worship is restored, our hearts are reoriented, and we are invited into a life where Jesus becomes the true MVP of our hearts. Communion reminds us that His sacrifice is what frees and restores us to live in ongoing praise.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use as many or as few of these questions as are helpful for your group or family discussion.

- Discussion Starter: If your life had a highlight reel from this past week, like a Super Bowl recap, what moment would make it into the film? What made that moment especially fun or memorable for you?
- Read Romans 1:16–17 aloud. What words or phrases stand out to you, and why do you think Paul begins the letter with such a bold statement?
- In Romans 1:18–20, what does Paul say people *already know* about God, and how do they respond to that knowledge?
- The message talked about general revelation (creation) and special revelation (Jesus and God’s Word). How do you see both of these at work in Romans 1:19–20 and in your own faith journey?
- According to Romans 1:21, what are the two failures Paul highlights in humanity’s response to God?
- Paul connects idolatry to worship in Romans 1:24–25. Why do you think the Bible treats idolatry primarily as a worship issue rather than just a behavior problem?
- The passage suggests everyone worships something. What does this teach us about the nature of the human heart?
- Paul connects ingratitude and idolatry. Why do you think a lack of thankfulness toward God can lead to misplaced worship?
- The message talked about general revelation and special revelation. Where do you see evidence of both in this passage?
- After you’ve spent a few moments praising Christ in prayer, take a moment to lift up your friends who don’t yet know Jesus. Pray that their hearts would be open and that God would give you opportunities to be a witness of His grace in their lives.