

WATCH YOURSELVES CAREFULLY

THE “GODS” OF OUR AGE AND THE MERCY OF THE TRUE GOD

Sermon Questions

1. Righteousness _____ a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people (Prov 14:34).
2. Man was not made to _____ the creation. The creation is a blessing to man.
3. Write “envy” or “jealousy” according to the definitions below:
 - i. _____ is a desire for what you already have that is in danger of being lost or taken by someone else.
 - ii. _____ is wanting what someone else has or resenting them for having it (since you deserve it).
4. To whom much is given, _____ will be required (Luke 12:48). We have been given much!
5. How should we apply Deuteronomy 4:15–31? (circle the best answer)
 - i. A message for modern day Jews.
 - ii. A historical message for ancient Israel.
 - iii. A current message for the Christian church and nations with a Christian heritage.
6. List the six “gods” of this age mentioned in the sermon that define sin and prescribe repentance:
 - i. The god of _____
 - ii. The god of _____
 - iii. The god of _____
 - iv. The god of _____
 - v. The god of _____
 - vi. The _____
7. True repentance is not just turning from sin but turning to _____.
8. List the five glorious attributes of the true and living God:
 - i. He is a _____
 - ii. He _____
 - iii. He is _____ and _____.
 - iv. He is _____
 - v. He is _____

Discussion Questions

1. Many people stumble over the biblical description of God as a “jealous God.” After hearing the distinction between sinful envy and righteous jealousy, how does understanding God’s jealousy as protective love (rather than insecurity) change the way you view his commands and warnings about idolatry?
2. Canada once acknowledged “the supremacy of God” but has largely exchanged the true God for a new post-Christian pantheon. Where do you most clearly see evidence of this exchange in laws, education, media, or public ceremonies? Do you agree that a nation experiences decline when it forsakes the true God? Why or why not?
3. Deuteronomy 4:29–31 promises that even in exile and judgment, if God’s people seek him with all their heart and soul, they will find him and he will show mercy. What would genuine, whole-hearted repentance look like for you personally, for our church, and for Canadian Christians at this cultural moment?
4. The sermon closed by contrasting the merciless, powerless, and fickle gods of our age with the true God who is Spirit, who speaks, who redeems with power, who is jealous yet merciful, and who is eternally faithful. Which attribute of the true God (his formlessness, his word, his power, his jealousy, his mercy, or his faithfulness) most comforts or challenges you right now, and why?
5. What was your most significant take-away from this passage and sermon?

Discussion Questions for Children

1. God is jealous the way a good mom or dad gets upset if their child runs away to strangers who would hurt them—God wants to protect us because he loves us so much! How does it feel to know God loves you that much and doesn’t want anything or anyone to take you away from him?
2. The Bible says we can say sorry and run back to God with our whole heart, and he promises to forgive us. Is there anything right now you want to say sorry for and give back to God so he can be first in your life again?