**“The Sad Bad News”**

Going deeper in Romans 1:18-25

**INTRODUCTION** – The Apostle Paul has just finished talking about the importance and centrality of Jesus Christ. He now begins to explain what has made the grace of God so necessary.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 18 The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all dishonoring of God and injustice toward others. For anyone who holds back the truth about God 19 because the basic reality of God is clear. It is there for everyone to see. 20 God’s unseen qualities can be seen plainly in creation. He can be clearly understood by creation. Attributes like his eternal power and divine nature can be seen so nobody has a good excuse. 21 It is like this: People knew God was there, but they didn’t treat him like God. They refused to worship him or give him thanks. Their thinking became empty and confused and their senseless hearts were darkened. 22 They pretended they knew it all, but became fools. 23 They traded in the glory of the incorruptible God for idols of created things 24 so God gave them over to what they wanted (the desires of their hearts) and the dishonoring of the bodies that God gave them. 25 All of this because they traded the true God for a lie. They worshipped and served the god they made rather than the God who made them who is blessed forever. Amen.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What is God angry about and why?

2. According to verse 21-22 what happens to us as a result of not worshipping or giving thanks to God?

3. When people failed to accept that truth about God being in charge how did God respond according to verse 24?

4. What do you think it means to be “given over” to our own desires?

5. What might all of this have to do with God’s grace?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Take some time in personal confession.

\*Thank God for his grace and forgiveness.

\*Ask the Lord to once again to take his rightful place as the ruler of your life.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Lord God must be the center of your life. When something else takes your time, energy, and attention and is not put in God’s hands for his use it can become an idol. What are the idols in your life? Will you turn them over to the Lord?