

THE KING IN THE GALLERIES 14

ROMANS 1:21

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

ROMANS 1:22

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

ROMANS 1:23

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

ROMANS 1:24

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

ROMANS 1:25

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

223-1 THYATIREAN. CHURCH. AGE - CHURCH. AGE. BOOK CPT. 6

I want to give a warning right here. It says concerning the last days that because of abounding iniquity the love of many will wax cold.

In the Laodicean, or last age, self love, and love for material things will take the place of the true love of God. We need to guard against the power of sin in these last days. So many are getting so hard because they haven't realized the effect of this last day spirit.

It is time to draw nigh to God and let him fill our lives with His love, or we will feel the coldness of the last day church, and reject the truth of God which alone is able to help us.

50-0405 EXPECTATION_ NEW. YORK. NY WEDNESDAY_

E-24 Even the Hottentots and Indians in years gone by, they worshipped objects, because the very creation of worship was in their heart, and they worship something. They worshipped something as their Creator.

And that showed that there was a Creator somewhere to worship, a God. If there's a hunger in your heart for more of God, there's bound to be more of God somewhere for you to find.

50-0819 SHOW. US. THE. FATHER. AND. IT. SUFFICES_ CLEVELAND. OH SATURDAY_

E-17 That's the aged old cry: "If I could only find God. " The. . . All ages, people are born to worship. You'll worship something. Maybe it's your child, your car, your home, your job, maybe even your church.

That will not work. It isn't the church we worship; it's God. The caveman, the Indians, the American Indian, we found that he worshipped the sun. And he believed there was a happy hunting ground.

When one died, they put the corn and so forth, his bow and arrow, and sent him out across the sea somewhere in his canoe, that he would find the happy hunting ground where he would have provisions to carry him over.

There's something in the human heart that calls out for a worship, somewhere. No man is on earth without worship. He worships something.

ROMANS 1:24

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

ROMANS 1:25

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and *WORSHIPPED and *SERVED the *CREATURE more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

WORSHIPPED: sebazomai {seb-ad'-zom-ahee}
to fear, be afraid, to honour religiously, to worship

SERVED: latreuo {lat-ryoo'-o}
Worship, do the service, minister to, either to the gods or men and used alike of slaves and freemen;

In the NT, to render religious service or homage, to worship; to perform sacred services, to offer gifts,

CREATURE: ktisis {ktis'-is}
of individual things, beings, anything created;

II TIMOTHY 3:1

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

II TIMOTHY 3:2

2 For men shall be *LOVERS of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

LOVERS: philautos {fil'-ow-tos}
lover of (one's) own self, loving one's self; too intent on one's interest, selfish

What is an idol, first of all? The Funk and Wagnall Dictionary defines "Idolatry" as follows: Excessive admiration or veneration, Blind infatuation

TO IDOLIZE:

To love or admire blindly or to excess.

TO WORSHIP:

The adoration, homage, veneration given to a deity, Excessive and ardent devotion or admiration.

50-0819 SHOW. US. THE. FATHER. AND. IT. SUFFICES_ CLEVELAND. OH SATURDAY_

E-17 people are born to worship. You'll worship something. Maybe it's your child, your car, your home, your job, maybe even your church.

There's something in the human heart that calls out for a worship, somewhere. No man is on earth without worship. He worships something.

55-0731 THE. UNCERTAIN. SOUND_ JEFFERSONVILLE. IN V-26 N-19 SUNDAY_

55 God made you to be a worshiper, a worshiper of Him. You'll worship something, regardless of what it is. You'll worship your wife. You'll worship your children. You'll worship anything, your automobile, your.

You'll worship your pleasure. You'll worship something, because it's in mankind to worship. Now, we want to know what we worship.

56-0610 PERFECTION_ JEFFERSONVILLE. IN SUNDAY_

E-80 If a man don't worship God, he will worship his car. He will go to barroom. He--he will do something else. He will run around, 'cause there's something got to take that place.

59-0125 BE. CERTAIN. OF. GOD_ JEFFERSONVILLE. IN V-5 N-12 SUNDAY_

9 We may not think that we are idol worshippers, but we are. And the government endorses it. People today are idol

worshippers, because they--they worship idols. Some of them worship movie stars for idols.

Some worship money for idols. And some worship television stars as idols. But all that you put before God is an idol, let it be whatever it may be.

I TIMOTHY 3:2

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

I TIMOTHY 3:3

3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

I TIMOTHY 6:10

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

I TIMOTHY 3:8

8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

II TIMOTHY 3:2

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

59-0125 BE. CERTAIN. OF. GOD_ JEFFERSONVILLE. IN V-5 N-12 SUNDAY_

11 Even to Satan, our great adversary is such a smart one, until he even puts sometimes the church before God. You might have a great church.

It may be a great building, or it may be a great denomination; and again, it may be a great congregation, but let nothing come before God in your heart. Anything in--before God is an idol.

59-0810 THE. REACTION. TO. AN. ACTION_ CHAUTAUQUA. OH MONDAY_
E-13 Our nation all, it's greatly covered over with idolatry.
We might not worship wooden animals and so forth, as we want
to think of idolatry, but that's not all idolatry consists of.

We sometimes make our automobiles, and our clothes, and the
things that we do we put as idols. Anything between you and
God is an idol. Sometime we make our churches idols. We
should never do that. God is the only One we should worship.

ENTERTAINMENT

We all need a diversion. We all need to stop at times and be
refreshed. For some people entertainment becomes their life.
If we are addicted to violent movies, that is a problem.

If we are addicted to sexual movies, that is a problem. If we
entertain ourselves with porn movies, that's a big problem.

BOOKS

The books we read can be a problem too. Are we heavy into
romance novels? Why? What is the real reason?

TRAVEL

Travel is a form of idolatry for some. Travel is exciting,
stimulating, some time refreshing.

Travel, though can be very addictive and travel agents and the
travel industry know that very well.

WORK

Some simply love to work. Some simply love to accomplish.
We know that some people are workaholics (work addicts).

How do we know that work has become an idol? There are clear
signs: We work very long hours, not because it's demanded, but
because we love to work.

We hate going home. We hate leisure. We hate social time.
We love to accomplish.

Our family gets set aside and both the wife and children are often neglected. This can be true of successful women who neglect the husband and the children as well.

How do we know if work has become a spiritual problem? Little or no time for prayer and Bible study. Longing to get back to work.

HOBBIES

Cars, motorcycles, collections of any which kind. They can be wonderful and relaxing, but only if they don't become an obsession. Do we neglect our duties to God and family because of hobbies?

PEOPLE

Can people be our idols? Which people in our lives can become an idol?

A boy-friend or a girl-friend. Many young people who were dedicated and committed in the church, stop attending when they meet the person of their dreams.

Children

Can children be an idol? Yes! For some, mothers in particular, they invest their whole being into their children. Time, energy and money are invested in their children and God is left out of the picture.

It may start with the birth of a child. Children can be time consuming; in fact they can totally take over. It is very easy to justify setting God aside because of little time. Very easy to stop praying or studying because there is too much to do.

CAN WE IDOLIZE OURSELVES?

OUR EGO

One of the most ingrained and most difficult idols that has destroyed the spiritual lives of many is hidden deeply in an area that is very difficult to explore. It is an area that is deep, dark and very well defended by a powerful guard.

This idol is described by the word "EGO. " In Latin it simply means "I" or me. It is a small word that represents for most the most important person in existence: ourselves.

When we say that a person has a big Ego we mean that the person has an idol: himself.

Psychologists have actually concluded that too much ego is a sign of mental illness, which can go from mild to very serious. It is a disorder referred to as a "Character Disorder.

" The specific term for people who have an inordinate amount of self-love is, "Narcissistic. " Such people idolize themselves. They love and admire themselves blindly or to excess.

They adore, pay homage to themselves. They have excessive and ardent devotion or admiration for themselves.

The following are some of the symptoms of this kind of idolatry.

"I am better than others. "

"I know more than others. "

"I am more competent than others. "

"I am more intelligent than others. "

"I am more knowledgeable than others. "

"I know my Bible more than others. "

"I give (time and or money) more than others. "

"I am more gentle and kind than others. "

"I am more forgiving than others. "

"I am more righteous and obedient than others. "

“I am more loved by God than others. ”

This, of course produces a puffed up attitude, which is not always easy to see. Such a person may think himself/herself to be very humble. In fact he/she may even be considered to be very humble.

The problem with such people is that they don't only have excessive admiration for themselves; they don't just adore, pay homage to themselves; they don't just have excessive and ardent devotion or admiration for themselves.

They crave for others to feel the same way about them, and they go to extremes to make it happen. What do they do? Some are willing to sacrifice and play the part and be all that others admire, so as to get their admiration.

They will volunteer, they will serve—to appear servants. They will act humble—to appear humble. They will give, and serve and visit, etc. to create a name for themselves in the congregation. They may be exceptionally warm and welcoming,

while at church, to again gain that admiration they crave and feel they deserve. Who is really the focus of their efforts? Themselves. Other symptoms of self-idolatry are related to the sacredness of idols. Idols are untouchable.

They must be treated with utmost care. Such people are also untouchable in the sense that they are very sensitive. They get hurt easily, because in their eyes, they are special – how can anyone touch their ego.

How dare anyone touch their ego. They are fragile and must be treated with utmost care. Such a person is usually tested when the idol (themselves) doesn't get the recognition he or she feels he or she deserves.

In fact such people can become unhappy, critical, cynical, and bitter. Some may even get bitter with God, for not recognizing them, or for not inspiring the recognition.

Some go to another church and start all over again. Some are so filled with themselves that they start their own church, so as to finally have the recognition they deserve.

They are not happy people, because self-worshippers cannot be happy. They get a temporary high from praise and success, but it's short-lived. They crave more and more and more and they always feel empty inside.

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So many are getting so hard because they haven't realized the effect of this last day spirit. It is time to draw nigh to God and let him fill our lives with His love,

or we will feel the coldness of the last day church, and reject the truth of God which alone is able to help us.

SELF-WORSHIP

"When we believe that we should be satisfied rather than God glorified in our worship, then we put God below ourselves as though He had been made for us rather than that we had been made for Him. "

Some go to church, not so much to worship God, to stand in awe of His grace to us in Christ, to stir up our affections for Him but

rather to consume, sit back, fancy the musical experience and apply the self-help advice we gleaned during the sermon.

The pastor is expected to be to be educated, non-offensive and smooth, the musicians to be talented and contemporary, the congregation to be good-looking, middle-class, look and act like you.

In other words this new mentality is none other than the worship of self.

God should be central to worship, not you . . . that is, He should be the central focus in our song, and proclamation of the Word.

Self-focused, self-absorbed psychological sessions whose main purpose is to generate good feelings about ourselves is idolatry, a breach of the first/second commandments.