



It seems like we're always searching for that ONE thing that will bring a sense of fulfillment to our lives!!! People, popularity, money, entertainment, technology, sexual indulgence, sports, fashion, careers, feelings, relationships, body image, power... these are just a few examples of priorities that we set as idols in our lives.

Idols are anything we put before God. Idolatry is a huge threat to our walk of faith. Stop and think about this for a minute. What matters the most to you? Does God have first place in your life? We don't always see the idols we have in our lives until the damage is evident that they were there. We believe that we will find satisfaction in these passions that we put before God—but we won't! God commands us in Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before me." In this week's lesson we will look at how this mindset leads to all kinds of other problems. We are clearly disillusioned to believe that anybody or anything can fill the needs that only God can fill!

According to the following verses, what does God think of idols and how do we get rid of them?

Ezekiel 14:3-6 _____

Deuteronomy 7:5 _____

Exodus 20:3-6 _____

What do you learn from the verses below on how an idol affects our relationship with God?

Matthew 6:24 _____

1 John 2:15 _____

James 4:4 _____

Read Deuteronomy 13:1-5, what does this passage say to do when someone tries to get you to worship idols? _____

What did the people of Judah do in Jeremiah 2:11-13? _____

Read Romans 1:20-25 and paraphrase what you learn from this passage _____

What is the simple command in 1 John 5:21 (see both translations)? _____

How does 1 Timothy 6:10 seem relevant to our study on idols? _____

What does Matthew 6:19-21 encourage you to do? _____

Idolatry promises everything yet gives nothing! Look at the consequences for worshiping idols. What does Jeremiah 2:5 say about us becoming more like what we worship? _____

In Jonah 2:1-8 Jonah's in the belly of the big fish...what do you learn from him as he is talking to God? Take careful note of his conclusion in verse 8. _____

As we read earlier in Exodus 20:3, God clearly states we should have no other gods before Him. What do the following verses say about God's rightful place in our lives?

Matthew 6:33 _____

Deuteronomy 4:35 _____

Psalm 135:5 _____

Colossians 1:15-17 _____

God must be FIRST in our lives! Not family, not friends, not our position!!!! It must be God!

King Nebuchadnezzar built a huge idol of gold and made a decree that EVERYONE had to bow down and worship it. Those who refused would be thrown into a fiery furnace. What can you learn from Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's example in Daniel 3:16-18? _____

Read Isaiah 44:6-20 and write down your observations.
What do you think vs. 20 is talking about and how does it apply to you?

“He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, ‘Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?’”

– Isaiah 44:20

Read Psalm 66:18 and contemplate the effects of “cherishing sin.” _____

Can you identify the idols you are holding onto in your life?

Ask yourself, “Is there anything in my life that I have before God?” What occupies your mind most of the time? What do you constantly talk about? What are you afraid of losing? What do you do in your spare time? What do you spend your money on? _____

Wrap up:

I must let go of any _____ in my life and put God _____ to receive His _____.

Passage Index (NIV 1984 unless otherwise stated)

Ezekiel 14:3-6 “Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all? ⁴Therefore speak to them and tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When any Israelite sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face and then goes to a prophet, I the LORD will answer him myself in keeping with his great idolatry. ⁵I will do this to recapture the hearts of the people of Israel, who have all deserted me for their idols.’ ⁶Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!’”

Deuteronomy 7:5 “This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire.”

Exodus 20:3-6 “You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

1 John 2:15 (NASB) “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

James 4:4 (NASB) “You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

Deuteronomy 13:1-5 “If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, ²and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says, ‘Let us follow other gods’ (gods you have not known) ‘and let us worship them,’ ³you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him. ⁵That prophet or dreamer must be put to death, because he preached rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery; he has tried to turn you from the way the LORD your God commanded you to follow. You must purge the evil from among you.”

Jeremiah 2:11-13 “Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their Glory for worthless idols. ¹²Be appalled at this, O heavens, and shudder with great horror,’ declares the LORD. ¹³‘My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.’”

Romans 1:20-25 “For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.”

1 John 5:21 “Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.”

1 John 5:21 (NLT) “Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God’s place in your hearts.”

1 Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Jeremiah 2:5 “This is what the LORD says: ‘What fault did your fathers find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.’”

Jonah 2:1-8 “From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. ² He said: ‘In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry. ³You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. ⁴I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.’ ⁵The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. ⁶To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD my God. ⁷‘when my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. ⁸‘those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.’”

Matthew 6:33 “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Deuteronomy 4:35 “You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides him there is no other.”

Psalms 135:5 “I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods.”

Colossians 1:15-17 “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or

powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

Daniel 3:16-18 “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.’”

Isaiah 44:6-20 “This is what the Lord says— Israel’s King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come— yes, let them foretell what will come. ⁸Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.’ ⁹All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless. Those who would speak up for them are blind; they are ignorant, to their own shame. ¹⁰Who shapes a god and casts an idol, which can profit nothing? ¹¹People who do that will be put to shame; such craftsmen are only human beings. Let them all come together and take their stand; they will be brought down to terror and shame. ¹²The blacksmith takes a tool and works with it in the coals; he shapes an idol with hammers, he forges it with the might of his arm. He gets hungry and loses his strength; he drinks no water and grows faint. ¹³The carpenter measures with a line and makes an outline with a marker; he roughs it out with chisels and marks it with compasses. He shapes it in human form, human form in all its glory, that it may dwell in a shrine. ¹⁴He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak. He let it grow among the trees of the forest, or planted a pine, and the rain made it grow. ¹⁵It is used as fuel for burning; some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a fire and bakes bread. But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it. ¹⁶Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, ‘Ah! I am warm; I see the fire.’ ¹⁷From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, ‘Save me! You are my god!’ ¹⁸They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand. ¹⁹No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, ‘Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?’ ²⁰Such a person feeds on ashes; a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, ‘Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?’”

Psalms 66:18 “If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened...”