



Idols, Image, and I

Escaping the Youniverse

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Your life is your life

Don't let it be clubbed into dank submission

Be on the watch, there are ways out

There is light somewhere

It may not be much light but it beats the
darkness

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Be on the watch

The gods will offer you chances

Know them

Take them

You can't beat death

But you can beat death in life sometimes

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The more often we do it the more light there will
be

Your life is your life

Know it while you have it

You are marvelous

The gods wait to delight in you

Go forth

Levis

Romans 1:20-23

²⁰ From the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse. ²¹ For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless minds were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles.

Exchanging Glory

- Stop showing gratitude to God (v. 21)
- Results in Improper Thinking (v. 21)
- Leads to a darkening of desires (v. 21)
- We then claim wisdom apart from God (v. 22)
- We then exchange the glory of the creator for part of the creation (v. 23)
- God delivers us over to these twisted desires (vv. 24, 25, 26, 28)
- We exalt, worship, reflect, and become like part of the creation rather than the creator (vv. 24, 25, 27, 29-31)

Isaiah 41:22-23

Tell us, you idols,
what is going to happen.
Tell us what the former things were,
so that we may consider them
and know their final outcome.
Or declare to us the things to come,
tell us what the future holds,
so we may know that you are gods.

Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in His own image;

He created him in the image of God;

He created them male and female.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth."

Psalm 115:3-8

- ³ Our God is in heaven
and does whatever He pleases.
- ⁴ Their idols are silver and gold,
made by human hands.
- ⁵ They have mouths, but cannot speak,
eyes, but cannot see.
- ⁶ They have ears, but cannot hear,
noses, but cannot smell.
- ⁷ They have hands, but cannot feel,
feet, but cannot walk.
They cannot make a sound with their throats.
- ⁸ ***Those who make them are just like them,
as are all who trust in them.***

Modern Idolatry

- The idol of the world: Love for the things of the world
- The idol of Self: Individualism, Comfort, Security, Intellectualism
- The idol of Gain: Money, Greed, and Materialism
- The idol of Tradition: Religion, Family
- The idol of Pleasure: Sex, Comfort, Drugs, Fun
- The idol of the Cult of Personality: Media, Politics
- The idol of Peer Pressure: Family, Friends, and Public Opinion
- The idol of Self-image: Beauty, Fitness, Self Esteem Issues
- The idol of Career: Finding Fulfillment in What I Do
- The idol of Indulgence: Food, Children, Sports, etc.
- The idol of Benevolence: Doing good to make ourselves feel better

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

**STORY 1 –
THE WORTH OF IDOLATRY**

Jeremiah 13

This is what the LORD said to me: “Go and buy a linen belt and put it around your waist, but do not let it touch water.”² So I bought a belt, as the LORD directed, and put it around my waist.

³ Then the word of the LORD came to me a second time:⁴ “Take the belt you bought and are wearing around your waist, and go now to Perath and hide it there in a crevice in the rocks.”⁵ So I went and hid it at Perath, as the LORD told me.

Jeremiah 13

⁶ Many days later the LORD said to me, “Go now to Perath and get the belt I told you to hide there.” ⁷ So I went to Perath and dug up the belt and took it from the place where I had hidden it, but now it was ruined and completely useless. . . . These wicked people, who refuse to listen to my words, who follow the stubbornness of their hearts and go after other gods to serve and worship them, will be like this belt—completely useless!

Why We Love Idols

Idols appeal to our selfish natures

- Some people are attracted to strict rules, others to complete freedom and no inhibitions, and so on
- Idolatry appeals to whatever aspect of our natures that we desire to have met

Why We Love Idols

Idols are easy and convenient

- Typically we control the nature of our idols and can interact with them on our terms in ways that satisfy our flesh

Why We Love Idols

Idols are normal

- Everywhere we look at the world around us we find people engaged in idolatry in its almost limitless forms so idolatry seems quite natural and normal

**STORY 2 –
THE IMPACT OF IDOLATRY**

Daniel 4:10-12

10 In the visions of my mind as I was lying in bed, I saw this: There was a tree in the middle of the earth, and its height was great. 11 The tree grew large and strong; its top reached to the sky, and it was visible to the ends of the earth. 12 Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit was abundant, and on it was food for all. Wild animals found shelter under it, the birds of the air lived in its branches, and every creature was fed from it.

Daniel 4:16

16 Let his mind be changed from that of a man, and let him be given the mind of an animal for seven periods of time.

**STORY 3 –
ESCAPE FROM IDOLATRY**

Matthew 22:15-22

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to trap Him by what He said. 16 They sent their disciples to Him, with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that You are truthful and teach truthfully the way of God. You defer to no one, for You don't show partiality. 17 Tell us, therefore, what You think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 18 But perceiving their malice, Jesus said, "Why are you testing Me, hypocrites? 19 Show Me the coin used for the tax." So they brought Him a denarius. 20 "Whose image and inscription is this?" He asked them. 21 "Caesar's," they said to Him. Then He said to them, "Therefore, give back to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left Him and went away.

The Good Guy Effect

We all tend to be the hero of our own stories

But it can be difficult to see reality

Colossians 1:15

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation;

John 6:38

38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

1 Peter 4:1-2

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same resolve-because the One who suffered in the flesh has finished with sin in order to live the remaining time in the flesh, no longer for human desires, but for God's will.

2 Corinthians 3:18

18 We all, with unveiled faces, are reflecting the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.

**STORY 4 –
THE DANGER OF IDOLATRY**

2 Kings 16:7-9

7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying, "I am your servant and your son. March up and save me from the power of the king of Aram and of the king of Israel, who are rising up against me." 8 Ahaz also took the silver and gold found in the Lord's temple and in the treasuries of the king's palace and sent [them] to the king of Assyria as a gift. 9 So the king of Assyria listened to him and marched up to Damascus and captured it. He deported its people to Kir but put Rezin to death.

2 Kings 16:10-15

10 King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria. When he saw the altar that was in Damascus, King Ahaz sent a model of the altar and complete plans for its construction to Uriah the priest. 11 Uriah built the altar according to all [the instructions] King Ahaz sent from Damascus. Therefore, by the time King Ahaz came back from Damascus, Uriah the priest had made it. 12 When the king came back from Damascus, he saw the altar. Then he approached the altar and ascended it. 13 He offered his burnt offering and his grain offering, poured out his drink offering, and sprinkled the blood of his fellowship offerings on the altar. 14 He took the bronze altar that was before the Lord in front of the temple between [his] altar and the Lord's temple, and put it on the north side of [his] altar. 15 Then King Ahaz commanded Uriah the priest, "Offer on the great altar the morning burnt offering, the evening grain offering, and the king's burnt offering and his grain offering. [Also offer] the burnt offering of all the people of the land, their grain offering, and their drink offerings. Sprinkle on the altar all the blood of the burnt offering and all the blood of sacrifice. The bronze altar will be for me to seek guidance."

2 Kings 16:17-18

17 Then King Ahaz cut off the frames of the water carts and removed the bronze basin from [each of] them. He took the reservoir from the bronze oxen that were under it and put it on a stone pavement. 18 To satisfy the king of Assyria, he removed from the Lord's temple the Sabbath canopy they had built in the palace, and [he closed] the outer entrance for the king.

1 Corinthians 10:31

31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for God's glory.

Isaiah 42:8

8 I am Yahweh, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, or My praise to idols.

My Idolatry?

- What do I spend the majority of my time, energy, resources on?
- To what do I turn to seek comfort, security, and self-esteem?
- On what do I base my standard of contentment?
- Do I get defensive when asked to give something up?
- What do I get offended about when challenged on?
- Who/what determines my mindset, lifestyle, and attitudes?
- What am I pouring into my mind and/or reflecting (TV; Movies; Books; Media; Friends; Facebook; Music; etc.)
- When is the last time I asked someone about what idols they see in my life (and then listened without getting defensive)?