



Our world, throughout the ages, has invented gods after gods. Those gods can be a statue people pray to, glorifying self in the flesh, worshipping nature or animals, money, covetousness to possess things, TV stars, sport worship, as well as anything else that draws our hearts above the only true God.

In Ex 20:4-5 God said, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, any likeness *of anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God.”

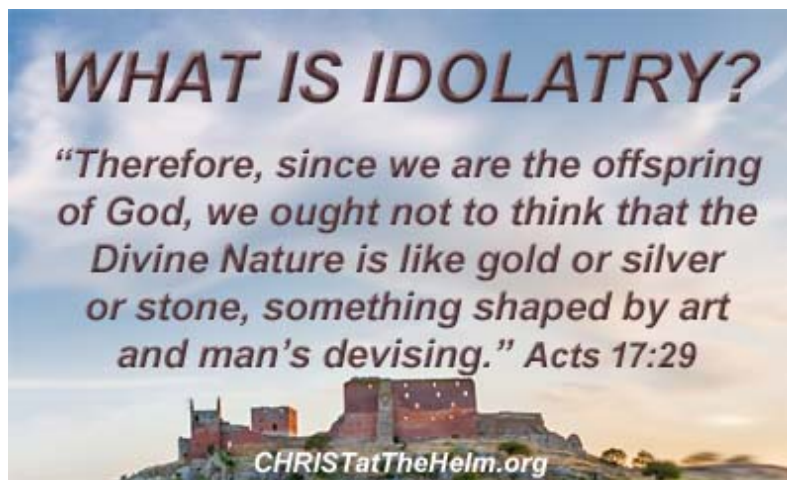
Then in Lev 26:1 God added, “You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a *sacred* pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I *am* the LORD your God.”

In Deut 6:14 God told His people, the Israelites this: “You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who *are* all around you.” Obviously, God’s statement to worship only Him as God is not a choice but a command.

Why then would we be so foolish as to worship idols?

Do we realize that anything or anyone that we favor above God in our lives, even if it is ourselves, is idol worship?

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Idolatry is defined as to have extreme admiration for something or someone other than God. Again, it incorporates devotion to the flesh, sexual perversions, hero and celebrity worship, racism, sports and nature worship, even the pride of life. As such, anything that takes precedence to God in our life is idol worship.

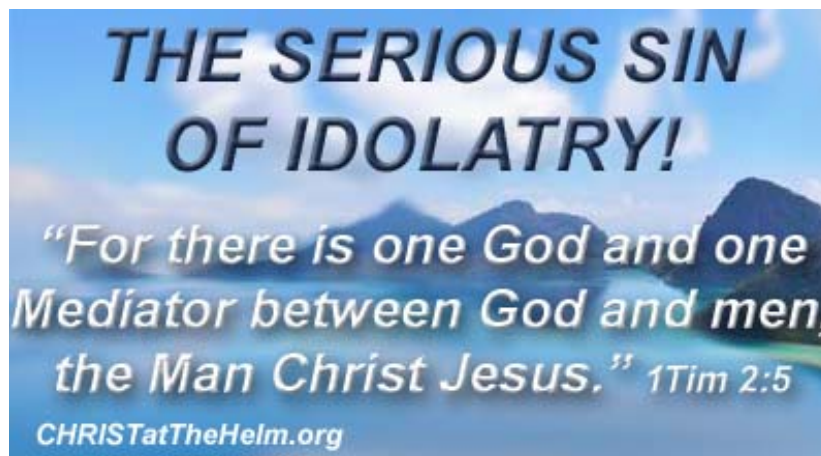
In Rom 1:20-23, Paul said, “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.”

1Peter 4:3 says, “For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do, living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.”

Col 3:5 concludes: “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

Do we have idols in our life?

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Here are some facts about God and the serious sin of idolatry:

Isaiah 44:6: “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I *am* the First and I *am* the Last; besides Me *there is* no God.’”

Deut 4:35: “To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself *is* God; *there is* none other besides Him.”

Col 1:16: “For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.”

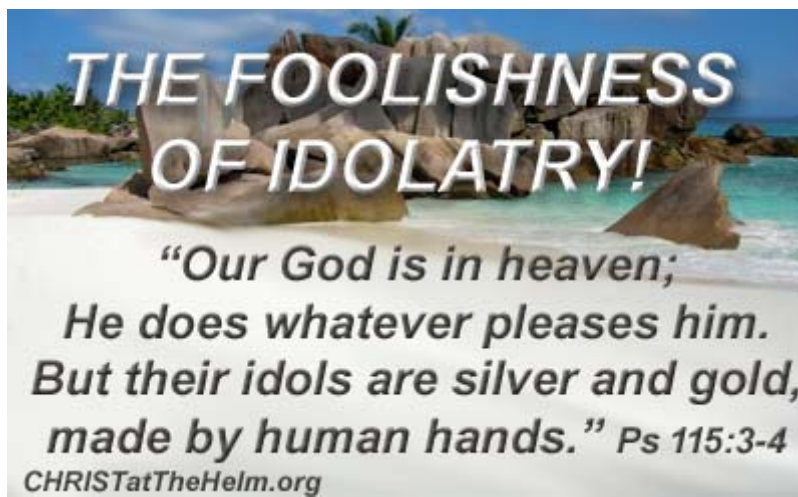
1Cor 8:6: “For us *there is* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and through whom we live.”

Scripture clearly reveal that there is one God only. As well, while some might claim to believe in God, idolatry is ever present in their lives through all sorts of addictions that in fact separate them from God.

Here’s what Jesus said in Mat 6:24: “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Do we realize that, as Jonah 2:8 says, “Those who worship false gods turn their backs on all of God’s mercies”?

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How foolish is idolatry?

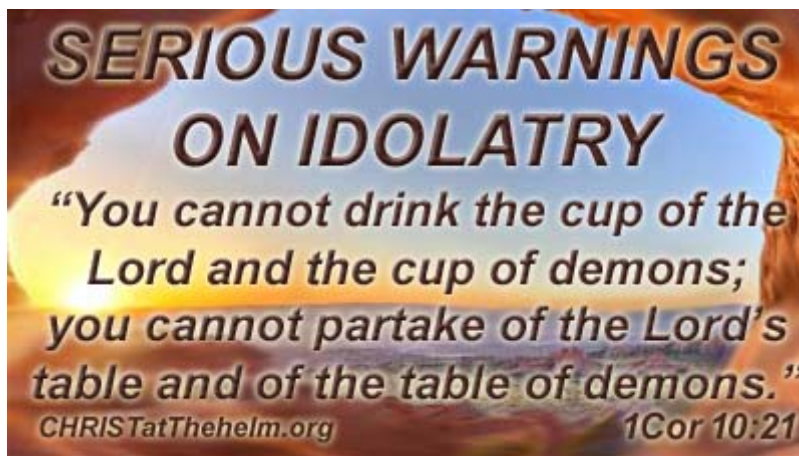
Rom 1:20-24: “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

Jer 7:18: “No wonder I am so angry! Watch how the children gather wood and the fathers build sacrificial fires. See how the women knead dough and make cakes to offer to the Queen of Heaven. And they pour out liquid offerings to their other idol gods!”

And for the most devious and hypocritical idolatry, Mat 15:8-9: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.”

Where does our heart point to right now, God or idols?

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The Word of God provides ample warnings about what God reserves for idolaters, as described below:

1Cor 6:9-10: “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”

Col 2:18: “Don’t let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud.”

Eph 5:5: “For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person; such a person is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”

1Cor 5:11: “But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.”

Col 3:5: “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

Will we choose to worship God, or find ourselves lost for eternity for letting the lusts of the world possess our hearts?

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