

## The Senselessness of Idolatry- Lesson 9

### Read Habakkuk 2:18-20

#### Introduction:

In Habakkuk 2:18-20 God pronounced judgment on the disgracing sin of idolatry. If you'll study the archaeological records, you'll discover that Babylon was addicted to idolatry. They worshiped many gods, and they thought these gods had given them their victories.

#### I. Defining Idolatry

Just what is idolatry? The definition is given to us in Romans 1:25: *"Who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."*

Idolatry is worshiping and serving the \_\_\_\_\_ rather than the Creator.

##### Note:

This is what Lucifer did. When Lucifer was the exalted angel in heaven before his fall, he wanted to be God. Turn to Isaiah 14:12-14.

Idolatry started with \_\_\_\_\_.

##### Illustration:

What was the temptation that Satan gave to Eve in the garden? \_\_\_\_\_.  
See Gen. 3:5.

When you know the true and the living God, you don't want \_\_\_\_\_.  
Idolatry is \_\_\_\_\_.

Idolatry is a sin of \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal. 5:19,20).  
When you worship and serve the creature, you are worshiping and serving \_\_\_\_\_.

"Glory to man in the highest" instead of "glory to God in the highest"—that is the theme song of idolatry.

#### II. The Effects of Idolatry

How does idolatry affect us? In Habakkuk 2 God, through Habakkuk, pictured a man who is making some idols.

He makes the image. *"What profiteth the carved image that its maker hath engraved it; the melted image"* (v. 18).

##### Three kinds of idols are mentioned:

- 1- The \_\_\_\_\_ image, which would be wood;
- 2- The \_\_\_\_\_ image, which could be wood but was probably stone;
- 3- The \_\_\_\_\_ image, which was metal.

"Neither speak they through their throat" (v. 7). Not only do they not speak, they can't even make any kind of noise. These are the dumb, dead idols. "They who make them are like unto them" (v. 8).

What does Psalm 115:8 mean to you?

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The person makes the image, then he \_\_\_\_\_ the image, he becomes \_\_\_\_\_ the image, and he misses \_\_\_\_\_ of the living God.

What is one of the worst downsides of idolatry?

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And, thank God, the Bible says someday "*we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is*" (I John 3:2).

### **III. The Reality of Idols Today**

We have more subtle idols today than those who made images of imaginary gods.

#### **A. Other \_\_\_\_\_ can become our gods.**

Some people look to others and make them their idols.

It's good to have our role models if they are \_\_\_\_\_ ones.

#### **B. Our \_\_\_\_\_ can become our god.**

Some people live for their body. In Philippians 3:19 Paul talked about people whose god is their belly, or appetite. They just live to satisfy their appetites. Romans 16:18. Some people simply worship their appetites, or their bodies.

We are neglecting the \_\_\_\_\_, the spiritual life.

#### **C. Some people worship pleasure.**

"This know, also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves" (II Tim. 3:1,2). Also see verses 2-4.

#### **D. Some people live for things**

And then there are those who just live for things.

"C\_\_\_\_\_ (which is idolatry)," says Colossians 3:5. They live to accumulate things—more boats and more cars and more TV sets and more toys. "

The only difference between men and boys is that men buy more \_\_\_\_\_ toys."

Let me give you some tests to use as to discover whether you have an idol or not.

1-There's the \_\_\_\_\_ test. For what are you working and living?

2- There's the \_\_\_\_\_ test: What do you trust? When difficulties come, to what do you turn?

3- There's the \_\_\_\_\_ test: What gives you the most pleasure?

4- There's the \_\_\_\_\_ test: What guides you when you make your decisions?

5- And there's the \_\_\_\_\_ test: What are you looking forward to? What you worship and serve is what you are working for.

6- There's the \_\_\_\_\_ test? That is your god. What will you change your plans for? That is your god. What will you lean on when difficulties come? That is your god. What gives you the greatest amount of pleasure? That is your god.

We've got to be very careful that we do not have idols in our lives. It will keep us from getting as \_\_\_\_\_ to God as we need to be.

The Prophet Habakkuk ended chapter 2 by saying, *"The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him"* (v. 20). Instead of a person's talking to a silent idol, we have a speaking God telling us to be \_\_\_\_\_. *"Be still, and know that I am God"* (Ps. 46:10). One day He will \_\_\_\_\_ all of the idols.

The bottom line is this, man is going to \_\_\_\_\_ and give his time and attention to something. He will either worship God or some false God of his own making.

**Illustration:**

A Chinese convert was asked by a missionary what remedy he found most effective in curing his fellow-countrymen of the opium habit, idolatry, fear of persecution, and other sins--- replied: "Knee medicine." "Men ought always" to use.

Luke 18:1 says: *"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint."*