

Worship – Pt 4 worship – beware idols in our hearts

This is our fourth study on the topic of worship. We previously established– (1) Israel's worship of the Father included burnt offerings and sacrifice, and (2) our worship is to present our bodies before the Lord as a living sacrifice – to prove His will and obey Him. In this study we establish (1) the lost ignorantly worship a false god, and (2) the deceived portray themselves as believers yet are of the synagogue of Satan, and (3) Christians worship in truth and have turned from idol worship.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded

1. The lost ignorantly worship a false god.

“Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever” (Rom 1:25), c.f. Acts 17:23, 25)

* regardless of whether the whole world worshipped the goddess Diana she was still a false god (Acts 19: 27 & 35).

* God's chosen nation, His people Israel – “took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them” (Acts 7: 43).

2. The deceived say they are Christians yet worship a false god.

“Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind” (Col.2: 18), c.f.– Rev.2: 9 – “but are the synagogue of Satan”.

3. Christians worship in truth and have turned from idol worship.

“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God” (1 The.1: 9), c.f. Acts 26:18 – “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God”.

* First response when a person believes God is to worship Him (as God) – Jn. 9:38.

* Children of God are worshippers (Heb.10:2 & 11:21).

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life

Paul could see the Athenians devotion to the goddess Diana, there were craftsmen whose job was to make idols for the whole world to worship. Today we know that a man bowing down to fruit or a man-made Buddha is lost and worships a false god.

Question to think about.

How do we prove the true worshippers in our midst?

Our answer from the scriptures.

True worshippers will have neither physical nor spiritual idols. Those who worship physical idols are easy to detect – you go into their homes and they are littered with idols. Those who have spiritual idols in their heart are not so easy to detect. For example – covetousness is idolatry (Col.3: 5) so when our hearts lust for something of this world, when we covet money, possessions or another man's wife we set up an idol in our heart (2 Pet.2: 14), and hence they are harder to detect. Here are some clues – We worship from our hearts, and there are two windows to our heart – our works (Tit.1: 16) and our doctrine (c.f. Rom.6: 17 & Matt.15: 9). So if you believe false doctrine or work evil whilst you worship then your worship is vain. We beseech you to treat the idols of your heart, the spiritual idols, the same as physical ones – mortify your members, turn from the idols and worship in truth, and in spirit. Amen!