



Eagle Forum Prayer Letter

July 2023

Bible Verses

Ezekiel 14:2-3 – “And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity.’”

Mark 12:30 – “And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.”

Matthew 6:21 – “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Luke 16:13 – “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

1 Corinthians 10:20 – “Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.”

Commentary – Do you have Idols in your Heart?

Webster’s Dictionary gives the defines of an idol as “an object of extreme devotion, a representation or symbol of an object of worship.” The Old Testament writings have dozens of words with many different nuances and meanings to represent our current dictionary word for “idols.” The table below shows just a few of those words and their associated meanings.

Hebrew Word	Meaning	Bible Verses
Aven	Nothingness, vanity	Isaiah 66:3, Jeremiah 8:19
Elil	A thing of naught, contempt	Psalms 97:7, Isaiah 19:3
Emah	Terror allusion to hideous form of idols	Jeremiah 50:38
Miphletzeth	A fright, horror	1 Kings 15:13, 2 Chronicles 15:16
Bosheth	Shame, shameful thing	Jeremiah 11:13, Hosea 9:10
Gillulim	Word of contempt, dung, refuse	Ezekiel 16:36, Deuteronomy 29:17
Shikkuts	Filth, impurity	Ezekiel 37:23, Nahum 3:6
Semel	Likeness, a carved image	Deuteronomy 4:16
Tselem	A shadow	Daniel 3:1, 1 Samuel 6:5
Atsab	To labor, results of man’s labor, wicked ways	Isaiah 48:5, Psalms 139:24
Pesel	A graved or carved image	Isaiah 44:10-20
Teraphim	Family gods (plural)	Joshua 24:14
Massekah	A molten image	Deuteronomy 9:12, Judges 17:3

In our modern age, we think of an idol as an inanimate object made of gold, silver, stone, or wood that has no power, functionality, or capabilities. In ancient Mesopotamia the gold, silver, and wood images

were given open mouths and nostrils to allow the “other gods,” powerful spiritual beings, to enter into and physically take possession of their idols. They then worshipped these spiritual beings with the expectation the worshipper would be blessed with benefits such as bringing rain, good harvest, family protection, open womb, material blessing, destroy enemy, restore health, give victory in battle, etc.

The ancient Mesopotamia peoples were very aware of the powerful invisible spiritual realm. We in the so called “modern, scientific, educated” world are almost oblivious to the spiritual world; therefore, we misunderstand the real impact of God’s second commandment in Exodus 20:4: *“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 ...”*

The real problem with idols is they result in violation of God’s first commandment in Exodus 20:3: *“You shall have no other gods before Me.”* Jesus states this commandment very differently in Luke 14:26: *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”* Jesus is not really asking us to hate our parents, spouse, children, and life. He is saying that if we love these things or anything else more than we love Him, we have in essence placed idols in our heart and are worshipping other gods.

A better definition of an “idol” in the modern world might be “an idol is anything; family, wealth, position, power, material wellbeing, safety, health, that is more important to us than our relationship with God and Jesus Christ.” Using this definition, the best test to determine if we have idols in our heart would be to look at how we spend our time, money, and our thoughts.

Prayer Ideas

- The church is God’s earthly instrument to counter evil in this world. Pray that the church would come out of its cocoon and take its rightful position in fighting evil and turning the hearts and minds of the people back to God.
- Pray that we would self-reflect to honestly determine if we have set up idols in our heart.
- Pray that our relationship with God and Jesus Christ would become pre-eminent and that God would renew our minds and destroy any idols in our hearts.
- Pray that we would recognize we are in a spiritual war and that we would seek to understand the enemy, his strategies, plans, strengths, and weakness and prepare ourselves for spiritual warfare by putting on the full armor of God.
- Pray that God would raise up pastors willing to speak truth and engage their congregations against the evil taking hold of our nation.
- Pray that more prayer warriors would rise and join the Montgomery County Eagle Forum prayer team and that we would have a Godly impact in our communities, Texas, the USA, and the world.
- Pray for repentance and a massive revival across our nation.