

THROW AWAY YOUR IDOLS

September 22, 2013 Joshua 24:1-27 by Bob Branch

Exodus 20:2-6

MAIN IDEA: “If you start scratching at whatever struggle you're dealing with, eventually you'll find that underneath is a false god. Until that god is dethroned, and the Lord God takes his rightful place, you will not have victory ... Idolatry isn't an issue; it is the issue.” **Kyle Idleman**

Split allegiances. Feet in 2 worlds. **A God-substitute.**

Sin isn't only doing bad things, it is more fundamentally making good things into ultimate things. Sin is building your life and meaning on anything, even a very good thing, more than on God. Whatever we build our life on will drive us and enslave us. Sin is primarily idolatry. **Tim Keller**

Romans 1:21, 25-26

Joshua 24:1-27

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. **Hebrews 4:13**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

Idols: wood/stone images, statues

gods of the **past**

gods of **present**

Why would you trust, focus on an idol?

“These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” **Isaiah 29:13**

²³ “Now then,” said Joshua, “**throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD**, the God of Israel.” **Joshua 24:23**

2 THINGS GOD IS CHALLENGING US WITH TODAY:

1. **THROW AWAY** your idols. What is an idol?

What's given more consideration, concern & attention than God for you?

What in your life replaces/competes with God? What drives/enslaves us?

Wherever you go for comfort when you are hurt, down, broken?

You know something is an idol to you by how you feel-react when it's taken from you, or the threat of having it removed.

Why do we lean toward trusting idols?

SOME IDOLS: Success, reputation, wealth, money, stuff (guitars, cars, guns, tv, watches) being ripped, body-image, fitness, work, children, girlfriend, wife, sexuality, porn, security, retirement, leisure, comfort, shopping, gaming, technology, bottle-needle-snort, power-control, sports, fantasy

Idols of the past: family reputation; success, pride, proving someone wrong, something God gave you (gifts, call, etc.)

2. **YIELD** your hearts to the Lord.

Yield... lit, **bend...** *surrender* your heart fully to him.

3. **CHOOSE:** **Desire** is not enough. **Decision** and **Determination** must accompany it.