

Summer Psalms  
**WHAT'S YOUR IDOL?**  
Wednesday, August 13  
Reading: Psalms 115

**Psalm 115:4** *But their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands...8 Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.*

Israel was always surrounded by idol-worshipping nations. These pagans would always ask the Jews, “Where is your God?” The heathen nations had many gods. Their temples littered their landscapes. Each temple had at least one idol which represented one of their gods. But when they looked at Israel, they had only one temple and no idols or statutes to worship. Where was this invisible God of Israel? Where are all the little idols and household images to remind them of who their God was?

From the very start, God had commanded that His people worship Him differently from the other nations. He would not be “boiled down” to an image or statue. Psalm 115:4-8 (repeated in Psalm 135) is God’s scathing rebuke of idol worship. While these idols may look beautiful, they are helpless to aid those who worship them.

In contrast, the one true God does not live in statutes or temples made by men, but in the highest heaven (115:3). Though idols have hands, feet, mouths, and ears they give no benefit to their worshippers. But the God of heaven is a “help and shield” to His people (115:9-11). Idols have no power to improve the lives of people, but the Lord “remembers us and will bless us” (115:12-15).

As this psalm was sung during the feast seasons, it reminded the Israelites of what made them different from every other nation. They had a covenant with the only living God, the only God who was able to help and bless them. Throughout their history, the Israelites would often forget this and start living and worshipping like the heathen nations around them. This always brought God’s hand of painful discipline to bring them back to Him.

This psalm brings a strong warning for people today. It says, “Those who make [idols] will be like them, and so will all who trust in them” (115:8). Like the ancient Israelites, we too are surrounded by idols. And they are just as tempting for us as they were to them. Our idols may not be little statues. They are much more devious. Idols in our life can take the form of money, power, sex, leisure, entertainment – and the list goes on and on. When we place anything as more important than God in our hearts it becomes an idol. And this psalm tells us that we will become like them – spiritually powerless, lifeless, and useless. They make us “blend in” with the world instead of standing out as different.

What idols might you be harboring in your heart? It doesn’t matter if no one else knows about it. God does and your idol is drawing you away from the Lord. It has no power to give you lasting happiness or salvation. It is time for God’s people to “clean house” and get rid of the idols that keep us from living for the Lord. Remember, we too have been called “...a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9)