



## Psalm 115 | We Become Like What We Worship

12.01.19

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### Outline

1. The Glory of God and the Impotence of Idols (vv. 1-8)
2. Trust in the Lord (vv. 9-15)
3. Praise the Lord (vv. 16-18)

### Big Idea

Trust and praise God—for his glory—who is our help and shield rather than idols who can only destroy.

### Psalm 115:1

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us,  
But to Your name give glory,  
Because of Your mercy,  
Because of Your truth.

The word “glory” comes from the Hebrew word *'kavōd'* which means “heavy” or “significant” or “important.”

### Isaiah 40:19–20

19 The workman molds an image,  
The goldsmith overspreads it with gold,  
And the silversmith casts silver chains.  
20 Whoever is too impoverished for such a contribution  
Chooses a tree that will not rot;  
He seeks for himself a skillful workman  
To prepare a carved image that will not totter.

(see also, the rest of Isaiah 40, 44:6-20, Hosea 9:10, Psalm 96:5. You could also read Psalm 27 and look at all of the things David is not putting his trust or hope in)

On the one hand there is no spiritual force or reality behind the idol; it did not represent an invisible ‘god’; it had no more reality than its material craftsmanship (4–7, Is. 40:18–20; 41:5–7). Yet idols were potent to destroy their worshippers (8, Is. 44:6–20). —J.A. Motyer

How are the idols of Psalm 115 useless? How are they dangerous?

## Idolatry Today

### Isaiah 42:8

I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

**The idol is whatever claims that loyalty which belongs to God alone.**

—J.A. Motyer

Idolatry in Paul's writings: Eph 5:5, Col. 3:5, Phil. 3:19

## Idolatry In Us

**1. See the \_\_\_\_\_ war**

Tim Keller defines Idolatry this way:

“An idol is anything more important to you than God. Anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God. Anything you seek to give you what only God can give. Anything that is so central and essential to your life, that should lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living.”

**2. \_\_\_\_\_ in the right \_\_\_\_\_**

“But **living a just and holy life** requires one to be capable of an objective and impartial evaluation of things; to love things, that is to say, in the right order, so that you do not love what is not to be loved, or fail to love what is to be loved, or have a greater love for what should be loved less, or an equal love for things that should be loved less or more, or a lesser or greater love for things that should be loved equally.”

—St. Augustine

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord**

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