

True Worship



How did
Smeagol
become
Golum?

What had the
ring become to
Smeagol?

Agree or
disagree with
this statement:
“We become
what we
worship.”



Take the quiz on last week's class...

T or F We only need to worship our God on a hebdomadal schedule.



T or F One of the names of God is El Shaddai, which means "God Almighty."

T or F An idol can be anything that confers on us personal worth, meaning in life, our sense of value, our status, our comfort, or our personal power.



T or F The symbol (to the right) derives from Greek mythology and depicts the complexity of the Gordian Knot.

T or F The *Missio Dei* is primarily our salvation.

T or F Preaching is God speaking in the power of His Spirit, about His Son, from His word, through a fallible human preacher, to people, usually about salvation.



T or F An unshareable attribute of God is His ability to always remember first names.

T or F The Tetragrammaton יהוה, Jehovah, Yahweh, Adonai, and The LORD all express the same thing -- a personal, intimate name of the true God.

T or F A shareable or communicable attribute of God is *jealousy* -- God continually seeks to protect His own honor and will share His honor with no one.

T or F Always watching certain TV shows can be a temptation to idolatry.



An old problem – idolatry

Worshipping false gods has been a problem. It was especially a problem once Moses delivered the ten commandments. It's as though OT Israel was determined to worship something other than their God.

"Grace will save a people... but it will not save us and our idols." A.W. Tozer

Fill in the right word for each blank:

arrogance

serpent

serving

grace

sexual

greedy

prayers

"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the _____ that could be theirs." (Jonah 2:8)

Some of the leaders of Israel approached me and sat down with me. GOD's Message came to me: "Son of Man, these people have installed idols in their hearts. They have embraced the wickedness that will ruin them. Why should I even bother with their _____? Therefore tell them, 'The Message of GOD, the Master: All in Israel who install idols in their hearts and embrace the wickedness that will ruin them and still have the gall to come to a prophet, be on notice: I, GOD, will step in and personally answer them as they come dragging along their mob of idols. I am ready to go to work on the hearts of the house of Israel, all of whom have left me for their idols.'" (Ezekiel 14:3-6)

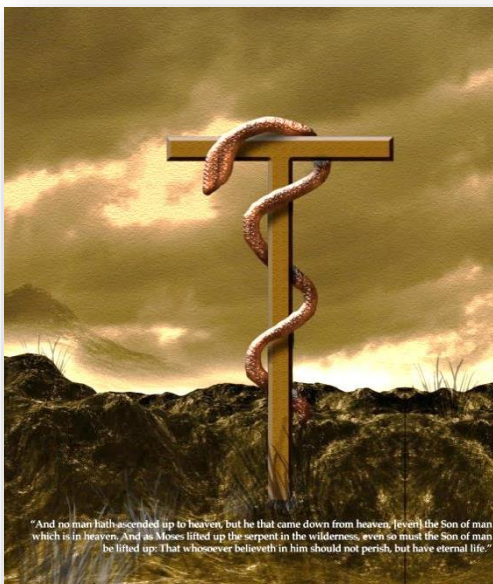
For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and _____ like the evil of idolatry. (1 Sam 15:23)

They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their fathers and the warnings he had given them. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless. They imitated the nations around them although the Lord had ordered them, "Do not do as they do," and they did the things the Lord had forbidden them to do...They would not listen, however, but persisted in their former practices. Even while these people were worshipping the Lord, they were _____ their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their fathers did. (2 Ki 17:15; 40-41)

He removed the pagan shrines, smashed the sacred pillars, and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke up the bronze _____ that Moses had made, because the people of Israel had been offering sacrifices to it. The bronze serpent was called Nehushtan. (2 Kings 18:4)

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a _____ person is an idolater, worshipping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. (Col 3:5-6)

You tolerate some among you whose teaching is like that of Balaam, who showed Balak how to trip up the people of Israel. He taught them to sin by eating food offered to idols and by committing _____ sin. (Rev 2:14)



"And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

THE IDOL FACTORY

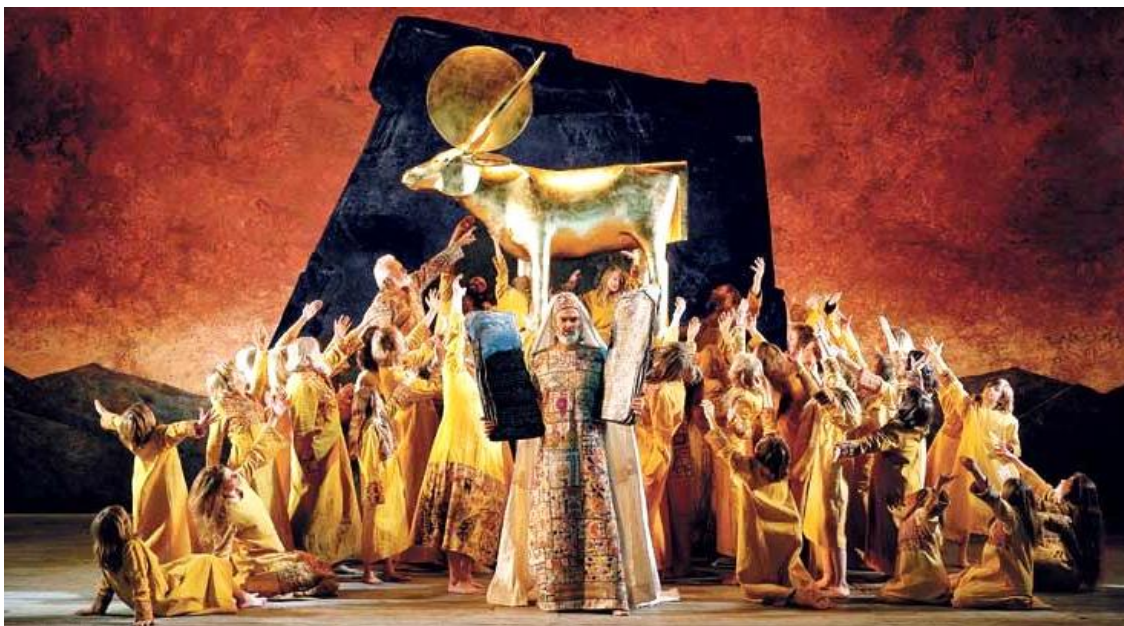
MAN'S NATURE, SO TO SPEAK, IS A PERPETUAL FACTORY OF IDOLS

They also didn't follow the worship program...

Match the worship "no-no" with the person who committed it....

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| 1. The Colossian Church (Col 2:16-23) |
| 2. Korah (Numbers 16) |
| 3. King Uzziah (2 Chron 26:16) |
| 4. King Ahaz (2 Chron 28:3) |
| 5. King Uzzah (2 Sam 6:7) |
| 6. The Pharisees (Mark 7:9) |
| 7. Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:2) |
| 8. King Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:32; 15:30) |
| 9. King Saul (1 Sam 13:11) |
| 10. Cain (Genesis 4) |
| 11. The Galatian church (Gal 4:9-11) |
| 12. Samaritan Woman (John 4:22-26) |

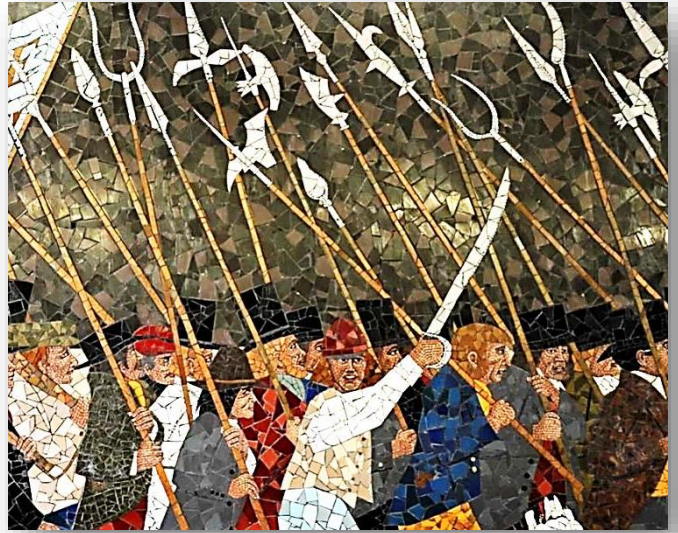
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|---|
| A. they "offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded" and were consumed by heavenly fire |
| B. Made up his own religion and led Israel astray. |
| C. Usurped Samuel's priestly role in offering sacrifices |
| D. worships "what she does not know" – in superstition and ignorance |
| E. He offered veggies that God didn't want and offered them carelessly. |
| F. Built high places to offer infant sacrifice |
| G. Handling the Ark of the Covenant, he got zapped for his irreverence. |
| H. By-passed the priest to burn incense and got struck with leprosy |
| I. He and 249 co-conspirators didn't like that Moses and Aaron were appointed to lead worship. They were consumed by heavenly fire. |
| J. Continuing to worship under the old covenant, when the new had arrived. |
| K. The appearance of "self-abasement and the worship of angels" has no value. |
| L. Created human rules and traditions for worship not instructed by God. |



What to do?

Worshipping false gods and/or improperly worshipping the true God were two problems that needed to be solved. History records two similar and destructive ways to curb aberrant worship.

Iconoclasm is the deliberate destruction within a culture of the religious icons and other symbols or monuments, usually for religious or political motives. People who engage in or support iconoclasm are called "iconoclasts", a term that has come to be applied figuratively to any individual who challenges "cherished beliefs or venerated institutions." Conversely, people who revere or venerate religious images are (by iconoclasts) called "iconolaters" or "iconophiles".



Byzantine iconoclasm



Around 726 AD, the Byzantine Emperor Leo III began an iconoclast campaign. He ordered the removal of an image of Jesus prominently placed over the Chalke gate, the ceremonial entrance to the Great Palace of Constantinople. Some of those assigned to the task were murdered by a band of iconophiles. Conflict escalated when Pope Gregory III convoked a synod in 730 and formally condemned iconoclasm as heretical and excommunicated its promoters. The papal letter never reached Constantinople as the messengers were intercepted and arrested in Sicily by the Byzantines. The Byzantine Emperor Constantine V convened the Council of Hieria in 754. The 338 bishops assembled concluded, "The unlawful art of painting living creatures blasphemed the fundamental doctrine of our salvation—namely, the Incarnation of Christ, and contradicted the six holy synods. . . If anyone shall endeavor to represent the forms of the Saints in lifeless pictures with material colors which are of no value (for this notion is vain and introduced by the devil), and does not rather represent their virtues as living images in himself, etc. . . let him be anathema".

Protestant Reformation

The Iconoclast belief caused havoc throughout Europe, and in 1523, specifically due to the Swiss reformer Huldrych Zwingli, many of his followers viewed themselves as being involved in a spiritual community that in matters of faith should obey neither the visible Church nor lay authorities. For the sake of



Martin Luther

"I have myself heard those who oppose pictures, read from my German Bible. ... But this contains many pictures of God, of the angels, of men, and of animals, especially in the Revelation of St. John, in the books of Moses, and in the book of Joshua. We therefore kindly beg these fanatics to permit us also to paint these pictures on the wall that they may be remembered and better understood, inasmuch as they can harm as little on the walls as in books. Would to God that I could persuade those who can afford it to paint the whole Bible on their houses, inside and outside, so that all might see; this would indeed be a Christian work. For I am convinced that it is God's will that we should hear and learn what He has done, especially what Christ suffered. But when I hear these things and meditate upon them, I find it impossible not to picture them in my heart. Whether I want to or not, when I hear of Christ, a human form hanging upon a cross rises up in my heart: just as I see my natural face reflected when I look into water. Now if it is not sinful for me to have Christ's picture in my heart, why should it be sinful to have it before my eyes?"

saving the Word as they read it, Zwingli and others rejected as profane, all art.

Martin Luther held the view that Christians should be free to use religious images as long as they did not worship them in place of God. Luther, with an equal concern for the Word, but far more conservative, would have all the arts to be the servants of the Gospel. "I am not of the opinion that through the Gospel all the arts should be banished and driven away, as some zealots want to make us believe; but I wish to see them all, especially music, in the service of Him Who gave and created them."



Legalism

Religious legalism asserts the achievement of righteousness by adhering to the law as opposed to the gospel. Religious legalism involves beliefs and practices of justification by works—or performance-based religion. At the time of Jesus, there were some 613 separate rules by which devout Jews were expected to live. These laws include restrictions about: mating different kinds of animals, planting a field with two kinds of seed, wearing clothing woven of two kinds of material (Leviticus 19:19).

Legalism had its beginnings in the first century with members of a Jewish sect known as the Pharisees. They sought distinction and praise by observance of external rites and by forms of piety, such as ceremonial washings, fasting, prayers and alms-giving. The Pharisees set themselves apart, from the Romans and other Gentiles, who they thought could make them unclean in the eyes of God by eating with them or touching them. By their strict adherence to the law, the Pharisees failed to see what mattered most to God. Jesus criticized the Pharisees for being so wrapped up in the law. Jesus told them they were so busy following rules that they neglected the important matters, such as; justice, mercy and faithfulness (Matthew 23:23).

HOW TO BECOME A LEGALIST

1. Make rules outside the Bible.
2. Push yourself to try and keep your rules.
3. Castigate yourself when you don't keep your rules.
4. Become proud when you do keep your rules.
5. Appoint yourself as judge over other people.
6. Get angry with people who break your rules or have different rules.
7. "Beat" the losers.