

IDOLS

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Exodus 20.3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

We are to worship GOD ONLY! I was talking to a young lady in her 20's a short time ago about her prayer life. She was having some problems, and I wanted to help her get her prayer life in order. She said she prayed before she went to bed every night, then she kissed her cross that she wears around her neck. What was she WORSHIPING?

The cross she kisses at night before going to bed is no more than an IDOL! This young girl is a church member. Is this another one that has been baptized but never taught the gospel? We have far too many of those that have not been nurtured in the gospel, nor encouraged to read the scriptures.

2 Nephi 6.71 Yea, wo unto those that worship idols; for the devil of all devils delighteth in them.

2 Kings 17.12 For they served idols, whereof the Lord had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing. (Leviticus 26.1)

I did not realize the Lord has so much in the scriptures about IDOLS. I have seen myself in many of these scriptures. Have you thought about the IDOLS in your life? I encourage you to look up the scriptures on this subject and see how they relate to you. This has opened my eyes to many things that should not be in my life. FOOD is an IDOL for me. I love breads and pastas of all sorts, and I know I eat more than I should. I am sure if I ate only what my body required, and spent more time in reading the scriptures, I would be healthier and not be overweight.

Psalms 115.4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

I think of the expensive jewelry; many people have so much they can't enjoy it. They have to keep it locked up and hidden in a safe, for fear of being robbed. What are they worshiping, and why, if they can't enjoy it, what satisfaction would there be in owning it? Would you say that is WORSHIPING THINGS OF THE WORLD? A few years ago when we had the scare the government would change the money printed, people made a mad dash to buy all the gold they could, hoping to be prepared for what might come.

Our world is crazy about 'THINGS' – THINGS WE PURCHASE, WHICH HAVE NO REAL VALUE, THINGS WE COLLECT, and WHICH ARE OF NO ETERNAL VALUE. Many people have their "heroes" they worship. SPORTS HEROS – many people spend more time either playing sports, or going to the games, or watching them on TV, than they spend with their own family.

Today, we have such a mind-set for WIN, WIN, WIN, and our children are being raised to "WIN IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING." What are we teaching our children and grandchildren, when we allow them to tack up posters of the Rock Stars, Sports Stars, cars, etc., to name a few? Are we teaching discipleship?

Many people treat their pets better than they treat their own children. There have been many cases where people have left a fortune, after their death, to take care of their pet! Seems as though we are way out in left field in some of our thinking. How well that money could be spent to help the homeless children, and many other areas of need.

Ezekiel 14.5 That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. Estrange – to arouse enmity or indifference.

Can we all relate to that scripture? The more "things" we have, the more time we have to spend on caring for them. The bigger our homes, the more furniture it takes to fill them, and the more time it takes to clean them. The more gadgets we have, the more time we spend using them. If we spend the weekend on the lake in our boat, that has been what we have worshiped for the weekend. Hours are

spent getting the boat ready to go, and hours cleaning it up afterwards.

We have neighbors, more than one, who spend every weekend throughout the summer taking care of their yards. They are very nice, but their yard is their god. The more material “things” we have, the less time we have for God and His Son Jesus Christ. What should be our first priority? Do we consider what a slave we will become to the “THINGS” we accumulate, or the money we spend to accumulate them?

I ONCE READ A TESTIMONY OF A MAN WHO SAID HE AND HIS WIFE WOULD NEVER BUY A HOUSE, BECAUSE THEY FEARED IT MIGHT DENY SOME CHILD MILK TO DRINK. They did not have children. They lived a very frugal life. They tithed every penny they could to help everyone they could. That is commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ.

WHERE ARE WE SPIRITUALLY, TODAY? ARE WE IDOL WORSHIPERS, OR DO WE HAVE AN EYE SINGLE TO THE GLORY OF GOD?

Alma 12.25 Thus they were a very indolent people, many of whom did worship idols, and the curse of God had fallen upon them because of the traditions of their father; notwithstanding, the promises of the Lord were extended unto them, on the conditions of repentance;

Regarding the IDOLS in our lives, we need to exercise one of the six principles of the gospel, REPENTANCE. Let’s take a good look at our lives, and ask what is displeasing to God and REPENT. TO REPENT MEANS TO STOP DOING THE SIN, IT MEANS TO CHANGE, OTHERWISE, WE HAVE NOT REPENTED!!

Earl Curry made the statement, “SMALL AFFAIRS OF LITTLE PERMANENT IMPORTANCE, TAKES SO MUCH OF OUR TIME, THAT SO LITTLE OF OUR TIME, OUR MEANS, OUR RESOURCES, AND OUR POWER ARE DEDICATED TO ZION.”

Does that describe us today?

Isaiah 2.18 And the idols he shall utterly abolish.

God tells us He will utterly abolish the idols in our lives. ABOLISH MEANS TO DESTROY, MAKE NON-EXISTENT. He is not pleased that we have IDOLS, which we worship. I remember of all the statues and pictures that were plastered all over the countries of Germany, Russia, Iraq, and other countries which were and are run by dictators, of the many ways they were displayed for the people to worship them. I also remember watching the destruction of Saddam Hussein's statue being pulled down, at the beginning of the war in Iraq – GOD SAID HE WOULD “UTTERLY ABOLISH” OUR IDOLS!! GOD IS TRUE TO HIS PROMISES!

Isaiah 10.11 Shall I not, as I have done unto Samaria and her idols, so do to Jerusalem and to her idols?

Isaiah 19.3 And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof; and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.

How many here have seen the video “TRANSFORMATION?” I cannot say enough good about this video. It shows literally, how whole cities have been transformed, through prayer and fasting, and engaging all other denominations – it shows how an evil spirit was cast over the city because of all the people that were going to one lady who was a WIZARD, A SORCERER, who could cast an evil spell on whatever she wanted. When God showed the pastors the problem in the city, they prayed her right out of the city. Because of the prayers and fasting of the people of these cities, many miracles happened. This could happen in our city – the casinos, the bars, the houses of prostitution, and the adult bookstores – it requires prayer, and fasting, and working together!

One man, who was a hit man, was on his way to murder a man, had the gun in the front seat of his car, with a silencer on it, covered with

a blanket. As he was about to pass a church where they were having a prayer service, he said the car literally turned into the parking lot. He was so overcome with the Spirit of God; he had a conversion experience right then. His life was changed. He is now working for the Lord. SHOULD WE, AS RESTORATIONISTS BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF THESE GREAT HAPPENINGS? If you have not seen this video, I urge you to purchase it and invite others in to see it with you. I have a burning desire to see this happen in the Restoration.

I will give you the address, phone number and email of this group. The Sentinel Group, 1800-668-5657, if you wish to purchase this video, it is excellent, it is called “Transformation.”

Ezekiel 14. 5-6 That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore, say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

Ezekiel 20. 16 Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my Sabbaths; for their heart went after their idols.

What do we do on the Sabbath day? Do we watch the ball games on TV? Is TV on from the time church is over? Or do we go to the sports events on Sunday – rush home after church, so we won’t miss any of the game at the stadium or on TV? Do we spend the day on the lake, fishing, or just having fun? What are we teaching our children when this is the way we spend the Lord’s Day? Are we teaching them to be followers of Christ?

Do we go out to eat on Sunday? Causing others to work on Sunday, the Sabbath? How are we witnessing to our friends? Do we prepare big meals on Sunday? The D&C 59.3a tells us our food needs to be “prepared with a singleness of heart,” on the Sabbath day! That is saying we should not be having a big feast on Sundays!!

Also, D&C 59.2 tells us to keep ourselves unspotted from the world, that on His holy day, we are to rest from our labors and pay our devotions unto the Most High.

WHERE AM I SPIRITUALLY TODAY, IS JESUS PLEASED WITH ME? IS MY PRAYER LIFE IN ORDER? AM I FASTING FOR THE NEEDS OF OTHERS? ARE OUR PILLOWS WET WITH TEARS AT NIGHT FOR OUR FAMILIES, AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, AND FOR OTHERS WHO KNOW NOT GOD?

1 Thes. 5.22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Do we think about this scripture when we are doing something that is not pleasing to God? ALWAYS, OTHERS ARE OBSERVING US - when we do those things we should not do, often times they say well, “this must be alright, I see other Restorationists doing it.” We need to have a prayer on our lips at all times, and ask God to direct us in the straight and narrow path.

There was a time in my life when I played a lot of bridge. I loved the challenge of the game. I played in several bridge clubs, in the daytime while our girls were in school. It was an obsession with me. After I joined the church, I had my patriarchal blessing, and I was shown a scroll, which passed before me of the things that were displeasing to the Lord. I then realized what a waste of time I had been guilty of – when I could have been involved in something worthwhile, in the way of service to others.

Proverbs 4. 23 Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.

The things we admit into our hearts determines our lives. If we are to build a saintly life, we must concentrate on all the attributes of God. “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...” Proverbs 23:7. I often have to ask God to grant me a clean heart and a right spirit

(Psalm 51:10). We must ask God’s help in coming to LOVE ALL PEOPLE. We have all met people we felt we did not want to know better – yet when we took the time to come to know them, we became good friends. That is required of us!

1 Cor. 10.14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

The Lord cleansed the world with a flood once, because of the sins of the people. He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone from heaven, and many more examples in the scriptures where the people were worshiping their own gods. GOD IS NOT MOCKED; HIS PROMISES WILL BE FULFILLED!

We are the temples of the Living God. We must separate ourselves from the world. Put our trust in God and not the world, and God will be our Father and provider, protector. (2 Cor. 6.14-18)

God made man in His own image. His desire is that men grow into a likeness of His goodness and perfection – that requires change in our lives. Man makes idols in his own image. The Natural man creates a god who condones his own base desires, that requires no change.

D&C 1.3e “but every man walketh in his own way and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great which shall fall.”

Sisters, are we about our Father’s business? Are we striving to serve the poor and needy? Are we visiting the sick and afflicted, or do we leave that up to the Priesthood to do for us? Are we too busy with our own little endeavors, helping our kids and grandkids keep up with the latest fads in fashion, etc., which separates them from the “have nots,” taking in the latest movies that are peppered with foul language, rushing to the garage sales to buy more “things” that don’t really need? Do we have to have the latest in fashion, which is known as a “clothes horse,” excess jewelry? Using money that could

be spent to help the homeless with food and clothing, a place to live or missionary work?

ISAIAH 3 - THE SIN OF THE PEOPLE - MODERN FEMININE EXCESSES. I URGE EACH OF US TO GO HOME TODAY AND READ THIS CHAPTER.

D&C 1.5f “For I the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance; nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven.”

WE NEED TO KEEP OUR REPENTANCE FRESH, DAILY. WE ARE ALL SINNERS, AND IF WE THINK WE HAVE NO SINS, ASK THE LORD TO SHOW US OUR SINS, AND THE IDOLS WITHIN OUR LIVES. WE ALL HAVE THOSE THINGS WE PUT BEFORE OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, IN OUR LIVES.

God is constantly calling us to avoid wasting our time and talents in the cheap, sordid things of the world. He calls us to turn away from such dead works and become involved in activities that are of kingdom building quality. **REPENTANCE IS THE CONTINUAL FORSAKING OF THINGS OF LESSER WORTH.**

God is not so concerned about our getting what we want as he is in our wanting the right things. Some people continually work to obtain things that will take them to the place they don't expect to go. **THERE IS THE STORY OF THE RICH MAN THAT DIED, AND A CLOSE FRIEND ASKED WHAT HE LEFT, SHE WAS TOLD “EVERYTHING HE HAD.”**

C.G. Mesley said, “EMBARK ON NO CRUSADE THAT DOES NOT HAVE ETERNITY IN IT.”

“FOR EVERY DIVINE LAW KEPT, THERE IS A RELEASE OF DIVINE POWER.” F. Henry Edwards

Brother E. J. Gleazer prophesied; “YOU WILL SEE THE DAY COME WHEN YOUR RESERVES WILL DWINDLE, PASS AWAY, AND IN YOUR POVERTY YOU WILL BUILD ZION, NOT POVERTY OF SPIRIT, BUT WILL GIVE STRENGTH TO BE FOUND KEEPING THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD.”

D&C 1.5f “For I the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance; nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven.”

Sisters, we need to repent of the IDOLS in our lives, and if we are not aware of them, ask God to show them to you. As we cast them out of our lives, we will have a closer relationship with our Heavenly Father, we will be greatly blessed.

HOW ARE THINGS WITH OUR SOULS – IS GOD PLEASED WITH YOU, IS HE PLEASED WITH ME?