

How Long, O Lord?

Empty Idolatry
Habakkuk 2:18-20
February 25, 2024

Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! - Habakkuk 2:19

I. HELPLESS GODS

- Idolatry is profitless. It creates gods out of our imaginations and places our trust in our own creation. It leads to a life of lies and illusions (Vs. 18; Isa. 40:18-20, 44:9-20; Jer. 10:1-10, Rom. 1:21-25).
- Woe to those who chase idols. At best, they are frivolous, at worst, they are demons (Deut. 32:15-18; 1 Kings 18:20-40; Psa. 96:5; 1 Cor. 8:4-6, 10:20).
- Idols consist of many things- physical, mental, and spiritual. When we pursue them, we become like them (Psa. 135:13-18).

II. GOD AND IDOLS—A CONTRAST

- In contrast to the idols of men, cast by their hands or worshipped as finite entities, the LORD God is in his temple (Psa. 11:4-7; Isa. 2:1-4; Micah 1:2).
- Whereas the idols of men are mute, the LORD speaks, but all who come before him do so in silence (Job 40:3-5, 42:1-6; Zeph. 1:7; Zech. 2:13).

III. REAL REALITY

- The end reality is simply this: The LORD is in his temple, let all the earth keep silent before him (Psa. 46:6; Eccl. 5:1-2).
- In Jesus Christ we find fullness, hope, and the fulfillment of the ages. Flee from idolatry into the arms of Christ (1 Cor. 10:11, 14; Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:27).

KNOW: Idolatry in all forms is useless. It makes the creature the creator and exchanges the truth of God for a lie. Hope is found in abandoning our idols for the living God.

DO: Tear down your altars. Exalt Jesus in your life.

Suggested Reading:

Gospel Treason: Betraying the Gospel with Hidden Idols by Brad Bigney
(Available in the LifePoint Library)

Destroyer of the gods: Early Christian Distinctiveness in the Roman World by Larry W. Hurtado

For Children:

His Grace is Enough: How God Makes it Right When We've Got it Wrong by Melissa Kruger

NEXT WEEK'S PREACHING TEXT: Habakkuk 3:1-2

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Habakkuk 2:18-20

1. What is the overall point of these passages?
2. What is idolatry?
3. What does God think about idolatry? How do we know this?
4. How is the true God contrasted with the idols of this world?
5. In what ways do we harbor idols in our lives in our contemporary world in America?
6. How can we fight against idolatry in our own lives?
7. How will you apply this text and fight the idols in your own life?