

No Idols!

Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. Everyone will be judged according to His deeds, whether good or evil *Heb 4:13*. God says that He will take vengeance in anger and wrath upon the nations that have disobeyed Him. All your wealth and collection of idols is worthless, and will not save you in the day of God's wrath. The Lord promises blessings for those who trust in Him; and curses for those who trust in the physical things of this world *Dt 28; Jer 17:5-8*.

Who and what will save you from the coming catastrophes? Scripture mentions that salvation is found only in Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth and the life. Drawing closer to God with true, heartfelt repentance, and obedience to His commandments, including keeping the Sabbath day holy; and avoiding the filthy abominations, and foolish pleasures of this world! Otherwise, you will continue to experience the calamities, and waste all your budget and time collecting useless funds (on useless rebuilding that will get re-demolished) until you are left broke, and you will always be treating the symptoms (catastrophes - tsunamis, earthquakes, droughts, floods and hailstorms, etc, that are happening with greater speed, intensity and frequency), rather than the underlying cause (disobedience to God's commands and unrepentance)!

What to do next?

- 1) Conduct a **Household Cleansing**: Get rid of anything that is an abomination to the Lord.
- 2) **Repent**: Confess and renounce all sin. Requires deliberate and radical transformation in one's life. A life of holiness and godliness.
- 3) **Obey God's Commandments**: Give God the respect that is due Him. All glory, honor, praise, majesty, splendor, supreme might and power belongs to God alone!
- 4) Daily **Prayer** and **Bible Study**.

Scriptural References:

Exodus 23:13
Leviticus 26:1-46
Deuteronomy 18:9-13
Deuteronomy 27:15
1 Samuel 12:21
Psalm 24
Psalm 31:6
Psalm 135:15-18
Isaiah 2:1-22
Isaiah 31:7
Isaiah 42:8,17
Isaiah 44:9-12
Isaiah 45:16
Jeremiah 10
Jeremiah 16:18-19
Jeremiah 17:5-8
Jeremiah 18:15
Jeremiah 51:17
Ezekiel 5:9
Ezekiel 6:4-6
Ezekiel 11:18-21
Ezekiel 18:12
Jonah 2:8-9
Micah 5:10-15
Acts 4:12
Acts 19:17-20
1 Corinthians 6:18-20
Ephesians 5:3-5
1 Thessalonians 4:3

**For more inspiring, encouraging,
informative and educational gospel
tracts please visit:**

www.godzangelmusic.com
www.valentinabestmusic.net

What does God's word teach us about idolatry? What constitutes idolatry and what does the term 'idol' mean?

The *New Merriam-Webster Dictionary* definition of: Idol is: 1: an image worshiped as a god 2: A false god 3: an object of passionate devotion. Idolatry is: 1: the worship of a physical object as a god 2: immoderate devotion.

In the Bible, idolatry refers to the worship of false gods and includes occult practices such as witchcraft, sorcery, divination and spiritism. This includes: crystal ball, tarot cards, ouija boards, reading occult literature and horoscopes, sacrificing children in the fire, consulting the dead, interpreting omens, casting spells, and other detestable practices which are demonic, and will open doors for demonic activity in one's life. Other forbidden practices include: setting up statues, images, sacred or carved stones, collecting souvenirs and figurines, using scapulars and rosary beads (vain repetition in prayer is forbidden). Invoking the names of false gods is also forbidden. Idolatry also refers to worshipping creation, such as the sun, moon and stars, plants, animals and fish, etc, instead of Almighty God who is Creator. Scripture never mentions for us to worship Mary (the mother of Jesus), saints, angels, or prophets. Other forms of idolatry include: placing someone or something above or before the true God in one's life, such as: money, wealth, cars, houses and other possessions, business, sports, job, politics, and world "entertainment," or anything else that is the focus in one's life. Gluttony (excessive eating and drinking), greed (excessive desire for food or wealth), and covetousness (desiring what belongs to someone else), are forms of idolatry. We are to fear the LORD, and avoid all evil.

Scripture says: 1 John 2:15-17 - *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.*

Therefore we are to avoid the lusts, pleasures, and other obscenities of this world, that lead to death and destruction.

The very first commandment refers to whom we worship: We worship and serve the one true and Supreme Almighty God, Creator of the universe, who is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient, first love and top priority, and of greatest importance in our lives, before and above anything or anyone else. We demonstrate our love for God through obedience to His commandments.

1) Exodus 20:3 - *"You shall have no other gods before me.*

The second commandment refers to how we worship: God's throne is in the highest heavens, and therefore, we are forbidden to make a representation of God in any shape or form. We are commanded to worship God in spirit and in truth and always address our prayers to God our Father, in Jesus Name.

2) Exodus 20:4-6 - *"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

God demands first place in our lives. He wants to be first love and first priority in our lives. He will not settle for second best. He wants complete passion and devotion and to be the center and focus of our attention. Our Lord is a jealous God and He tolerates no rivals. God says that He will punish the sin of idolatry down to the third and fourth generation of all those who hate Him. He will be quick to take vengeance upon those who hate Him.

One of the gravest sins in God's eyes with the heaviest of penalties is idolatry, which is an abomination and detestable in His sight. Anyone who commits the sin of idolatry will NOT inherit the kingdom of God; and will instead suffer eternal punishment in the lake of fire, which is the second death:

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - *Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

Revelation 21:8 - *But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."*

We are also forbidden to invoke the names of false gods, and study the literature of any other religion Ex 23:13.

Punishments are multiplied 'seven times over' if people do not listen to God, but continue in their rebellious, evil ways, and with a stubborn, proud heart and stiff neck continue to be hostile towards God, and disobey, and reject His command-

ments. There is no excuse for those who have come to a knowledge of the truth. God will judge and punish those who continue to commit the sin of idolatry. They will pay heavy penalties! Lev 26:14-41.

As we can see in prophecy news, that so far in the US, in 2011, there have been a total number of 1,897 tornadoes reported, which is the worst in the history of the US (set deadly records); and 1,037 tornadoes reported in 2012. That figure will multiply shortly, if people do not repent of their sins, and begin to revere God and obey His commandments.

Leviticus 26:21 - *"If you remain hostile toward me and refuse to listen to me, I will multiply your afflictions seven times over, as your sins deserve.*

Psalms 7:12 - *If he does not relent, God will sharpen his sword; he will bend and string his bow.*

Amos 3:15 - *I will tear down the winter house along with the summer house; the houses adorned with ivory will be destroyed and the mansions will be demolished," declares the LORD.*

What does the Bible say about idols? God promises that He alone will be exalted; man humbled, and the idols will totally disappear. Those who worship idols will be put to shame and disgrace, for rejecting the Lord God Almighty. Idols are useless, hopeless and worthless, as they do not see, hear, walk or talk, and are an object of mockery. They have no breath in them, and must be carried around. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you. The wind will carry all of them away. Those who worship them will become like them Is 2:6-22.

What do you do with those idols? Smash them to pieces or burn them. Once you have destroyed these abominations, then you will be ready to begin a spiritual relationship with God. By living upright, holy and godly lives, in obedience to God's commandments, you will begin to experience God's blessings in your life!

Dt 7:5 - *This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire.*

A household cleansing must be conducted so that we remove anything that is an abomination to the Lord, including barriers and obstacles that will distract us and interfere in our relationship with Him, hinder our spiritual growth and prayers from being powerful and effective!

Household Cleansing: (*The following list is a guide*).

1. Use a filtered ISP online e.g. Webshield. Use an ad popup blocker such as adblock pro for Explorer or adblock plus for Firefox. As an extra precaution, use an image and flash blocker, and block site add on available for Firefox browser - to block obscene, repulsive and offensive material that promotes what is contrary to God's word.
2. Remove idols - including statues, souvenirs and figurines from the home and smash them to pieces Lev 19:4; 26:1; Ac 15:20.
3. Burn literature/books about witchcraft/sorcery and other occult related items including amulets, charms, crystal balls, ouija boards and tarot cards, etc. Ac 19:18-20.
4. Rip filthy and immoral books/magazines/newspapers to shreds 1 Co 6:18-20.
5. No worldly horror, immoral, vulgar and repulsive magazines, tv, radio, lyrics and websites, etc 1 Ti 5:22.
6. Total abstinence from the world's sinful pleasures, (which lead to death & destruction). God strictly forbids sexual immorality, including fornication, homosexuality, incest, bestiality and adultery. (*Read Tract - 'You Shall Not Commit Adultery!'*). We are to flee from sexual immorality. Our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and we honor God with our body Ac 15:20; 1 Co 6:18-20.
7. Resist temptations by the power of God's Holy Spirit Mt 6:13; 26:41.
8. Avoid clubs, drugs and smoking (We honor God with our bodies by avoiding harmful, toxic substances) 1 Co 6:20.
9. Social network websites can be used in a good way, and that is to preach the true gospel. We never use social network websites and chatrooms to make friends with the world 1 Co 15:33; Jas 4:4. We are accepted by God when we avoid corrupt and evil company. A person who associates with evildoers becomes a partaker of evil deeds and will receive the same punishment. Sexual perverts, including pedophiles and all kinds of other criminals are among those who go there, and we are to avoid them. Children require parental supervision on the internet.
10. Avoid slander and gossip 1 Ti 5:13.
11. Avoid greed (excessive desire for food or wealth), and gluttony (excessive eating and drinking) Pr 23:2.

Therefore, one must repent of such detestable practices, with true, heartfelt repentance and godly sorrow. Confess and renounce, past and present, known and unknown sins to God in prayer. Ask God to release you from generational curses associated with any idolatrous practices your ancestors may have been involved in, and then you will be set free from the consequences of the sin of idolatry. (*Please read also tract 'Sabbath,' 'Repent or Perish' & 'Curses'*).