

Removing the Idols

God gave the Ten Commandments to His people and wrote them down on stone so they wouldn't be forgotten. One commandment expressly forbids making idols or images and bowing down to them.

Psalms 106:35-36 – “But they mingled with the Gentiles and learned their works; they served their idols, which became a snare to them.” There are millions of people in the world today who bow down before idols. According to God, those idols are a snare to those who worship them.

Others don't bow before statues, but they make idols to possession or people or money. This is all a snare too. Whatever you love more than God is an idol to you and it is a snare. A divided heart isn't a heart that God can really possess. If there is an idol in your life, right now, ask God to take it away. Do it quickly, so that God can have your whole heart.

Be Humble and Receive Mercy and Forgiveness!

The patience God showed with the kings of Israel and Judah was nothing short of incredible. They were to lead God's people. So often they led them alright but into sin and adultery. But again, and again God showed how longsuffering He was toward sinful people. And if God was that patient, then, He is still that patient today.

2 Chronicles is speaking of king Rehoboam, and remember it was Rehoboam's stubbornness that caused Israel to split into two kingdoms. **2 Chronicles 12:2 – “And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the Lord turned from him, that he would not destroy him altogether: and also in Judah things went well.”**

This verse tells us that God is so patient. When someone who is as hardhearted as Rehoboam humbled himself, God was willing to show mercy and forgiveness. Do you need mercy and forgiveness today? We all know the answer to that question in our lives. You can go to God right now to receive it. Because the God who was so merciful then is that same God today and He is just as merciful right now as He was back then. Trust Him today. Humble yourselves before His mighty hand and He will deliver you. Whatever you have come from God, and all glory should go to Him for having it. If the devil urges you to boast in your strength that is not what God wants. He wants us to boast in His strength today. Do this now and watch the Lord exalt you. He said He would do it. **Luke 14:7-11 - So He [Jesus] told a parable to those**

who were invited to the wedding, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them...When you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

The Aftermath of Sin!

In Frankfurt Germany a 1½ ton British bomb was recently found causing sixty-five thousand people to be evacuated. This included hospitals, nursing homes and babies along with people in the ICU. In Germany a disposal unit is kept year-round detonating unexploded bombs. And they will be kept busy for years even though World War II ended more than seven decades ago.

And that is what sin is like. Even after you have apologized, repented and made amends, there still can be lasting consequences, memories and pain of your actions. King David fathered a child after he sinned by putting to death the husband of Beersheba, he took in marriage. He had this sad exchange in **2 Samuel 12:19** – **"...David said unto his servants, is the child dead? And they said he is dead."**

Long after the fact, sin causes hurt. If you have a chance to avoid costly mistakes and the future pain it will cause, let God lead you in the "*guilt-free*" path today. He died so that you can be set free from the bondage of sin, lies, deceit, failure and so much more. Use the freedom that Jesus prepared for you by taking His hand and accepting His death and resurrection to free you from the bondage of the devil. You still have time today if you do it right now.

Meditate!

If you don't have a GPS and you want to go from point A to point B you can always use a map. But for many the map can be so confusing to read just to travel a small distance. And the reason it is so difficult to read is you have to study your way of travel first, before you travel. You have to take time with it and absorb it.

Now, we know that is true with a math, but what about the word of God? Too often many just flip through the pages of their bible instead of taking time with the bible and absorbing what it says. **Psalms 119:15 says, "I will meditate on your precepts, and contemplate Your ways."**

Take time with the bible, a longer look. If you think about it, it is a drink of *living* water, nourishing the soul in this life and for eternal life. Don't miss your drink of living water, today. When you do, you will get where you really want to go.

Free Falling

A volcano in West Java Indonesia erupted in June of 1982. Several people died and it could have been a hold lot worse. A jumbo jet carrying 240 people to Australia flew through the ash cloud and all four of its engine failed. It was flying at 37,000 feet. For about 15 minutes it lost altitude dropping all the way to 12,000 feet. So what did the pilots do when they were dropping, when they were falling? They were patient and for those 15 minutes they tried to restart the engines of the plane. And they were successful. And the engines restarted.

There are times in life when you can feel like you are sinking. Or maybe you are sinking. It may feel as if you are in free-fall. So what do you do? You restart! In the book of Lamentations Jeremiah is lamenting [mourning] the state of Israel, contemplating the judgment of God and considering the difficult state they were in. And he wrote in **Lamentations 3:40 – “Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord.”**

Life will drag you down. It may be an illness in your own life or in the life of someone else. It could be a financial loss or an unexpected set-back, at work or in school. Or perhaps you find yourself caught, caught in sin in some kind of moral or ethical situation for whatever reason. And it may somehow, just kind of sneaked up on you. What do you do if that is the case? You restart!

If those pilots had not restarted the plane it would have descended another 12,000 feet and then, tragedy! But they did what they were trained to do and saved a lot of lives. If you are in free-fall, descending, instead of ascending, it isn't over. Start again, turn again to the Lord. God is merciful and gracious and He wants the best for you. Turn again to God and you will find that He has already turned to you.

Afraid?

Read the book of Psalms and you will see that there are times David expressed frustration and fear. You remember that David was king, and things weren't always

well with his kingdom. Things weren't always well with him, either. But notice what he says in **Psalms 56:2-3** – **“My enemies would hound me all day, for there are many who fight against me, O Most High. Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you.”**

Fear is a powerful emotion. But being able to trust, being able to be calm during fearful moments is a powerful help when fear crowds into your mind. When you are afraid, when it is so dark at times, where does your mind go? John Wesley an English theologian during the 1700's life was changed when he was on a ship in a huge storm. The Christian leaders on board had no fear during the storm, yet he was terrified. But the Christian leaders did something that caught his eye. He noticed their trust was in God.

When fear grips you, where is your trust placed, today? Trust in God just like David did. Let someone see how well you trust in God during your time of fear. It will bring peace and calmness to your heart and to those who see you. God has the power to give you during fearful times if you will receive it. Try it today and watch fear disappear and the peace of God empower you always.

The Love of Money

Someone once said that money is the root of all evil. But of course, that is not true. Paul wrote to Timothy and he said that the problem is **“the love of money.”** Money is ok, and it is hard to get by without it. And you can provide for yourself with it, and for others. You can support God's work and you can do good. And the more you have...well, that is often when the problem comes.

God certainly is not against wealth. He blessed David, Solomon, Abraham and Job with plenty. So, what is the challenge with money? **Psalms 62:10** says, **“If riches increase, set not your heart upon them.”** The challenge is we can come to trust in money and to love money rather than looking to entrusting and loving God, whose money it is.

He gave it to us so that it can be a blessing to us. Don't let money become a curse. Many marriages and relationships have come to an end because of it. David's advice is good today. **“Don't set your heart upon it.”**

Humility

In the United States around 80 billion dollars a year is spent on incarcerating people. Now, think of the cost, the financial, emotional and other cost involved for failed marriages and failed relationships. A marriage counselor can cost up to 200 dollars an hour.

Consider this in **1 Chronicles 12:12**, speaking of King Rehoboam it says, **“And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the Lord turned from him, that he would not destroy him altogether: and also in Judah things went well.”**

Notice that, “When he humbled himself things went well.” Imagine if husbands and wives were willing to do that. It would save a lot of strife and a lot of failed marriages and relationships. It’s simplistic to think that humility would prevent crime, but it is true. So, where do you need to humble yourself? If God is speaking to you about something in your heart, you don’t have to do it God’s way, but it won’t go well if you don’t. But if you do, everything will turn out just fine.