

We become what we worship.

“Idol worship is revering anything other than God.” – G. K. Beale<sup>1</sup>

Q: Is God a megalomaniac?

A: Far from megalomania, it is altogether right and proper for God to desire praise and glory because *He actually deserves it*. It’s wrong for us to take the credit because we don’t deserve it. The Apostle Paul puts it this way: “For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen” (Rom. 11:36).<sup>2</sup>

Habakkuk 2:18-20

*What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! <sup>19</sup> Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it. <sup>20</sup> But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.*

### Insanity of worshipping idols

- Trusting in something less powerful than you are – 2:18  
*What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols!*
  - Why? Because we’re drawn towards what we think we can control.
- Talking to metal, rocks, and wood – 2:19 *Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.*

Q: So, why “follow” idols?

- We like control.
  - Idolatry attempts to make God in our image.
  - Idols are transactional. If you follow the formula, you get the benefits.
- Idols excuse what God calls us to forsake.
  - Love of money/power.
  - Sexual immorality.
- Idols promise a quicker fix than waiting on God – Exodus 32.

Results of idolatry: Psalm 115:8 *Those who make them [idols] become like them; so do all who trust in them.*

### Idols today

- Pleasure + Money + Notoriety
- Good things elevated to ultimate things: Spouse + Children + Friends + Recreation.

“We resemble what we revere, either for ruin or restoration.”  
– G. K. Beale<sup>3</sup>

Q: How should we respond?

A: 2:20 *But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.*

---

<sup>1</sup> G. K. Beale, *We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry* (Downers Grove: IVP Academic Press, 2008), 133.

<sup>2</sup> [Jeffrey M. Robinson, \*Persuasive Apologetics: The Art of Handling Tough Questions Without Pushing People Away\*](#) (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2023), 28.

<sup>3</sup> Beale, *We Become What We Worship*, 49.