

“Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.” Psalm 115:1

In his book *The Politically Incorrect Jesus*, author Joe Battaglia has a chapter entitled “Golden Rules or Golden Calves?” In this chapter, Battaglia argues that our society has replaced the idea of looking out for the best interest of others (i.e. “The Golden Rule”) with a spirit of “self-aggrandizement” (i.e. “Golden Calves”). According to Battaglia, we lust and crave for the things that offer immediate gratification and make us comfortable and wealthy. In fact, we begin to value these “things” and hold them as ideals even to the point of making them idols and worshipping them.

In Psalm 115, the Psalmist reminds us that all glory, honour, and praise belong to God and God alone because He is the faithful one. God forbid that any glory that belongs to God alone be given to us or anything else! This is the essence of idolatry which is manifestly forbidden throughout sacred Scripture and yet at the same time is perhaps the biggest problem of fallen creatures. Idols don’t have to be actual golden calves or wooden statues. They are often subtle, sometimes even good things. But when they turn our attention and focus away from God and especially rob God of His glory and praise, they are idols. And the Psalmist warns of this, reminding us that ***“Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them [idols]”*** (v. 8). In other words, we will have eyes that can’t see; ears that can’t hear; noses that can’t smell; and feet that can’t walk. We will become dead and useless.

Dear friend, my prayer today is that each one of us will do an inventory of our hearts, identify the “Golden Calves” that are robbing God of our focus, attention, adoration, and praise. And as we do, may we rid ourselves of these idols and say, along with the Psalmist, ***“Not to us, LORD, no to us but to your name be he glory.”***