

Galatians 5:20 and calls it a work of the flesh. "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (Col. 3:5). The inspired apostle defines covetousness as idolatry. Covetousness can refer to a greedy person who lusts after that which another has, to strive for, to be jealous of things possessed by others. Jesus said, "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). Paul warned us about covetousness, "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them" (Eph. 5:5-7).

Whenever we place something before God, it becomes an idol. A covetous man is an idolater because he desires things that are contrary to the things of God. For example, a covetous man will place money before God. His money means more to him than anything else, though he would most likely never admit it. "In one of McGuffey's readers, there is a story of a miser who had under his basement a sub-basement that was known only to himself. Here he kept his silver and his gold. Here he would come secretly to worship. It was his custom to run his bony fingers through the

coins and listen to the music of their clank, as he said, 'O my beauties!' But one day, while he was thus worshipping, a vagrant wind blew the door of the sub-basement shut. It fastened from the outside. Thus the miser was shut in with his gold. Years later, when men tore down his old house, they found a skeleton draped over a heap of coins. He had taken money and made it his god, and that god had destroyed him. But money was no more deadly for him than it is for those who, today, change it from a means into an end." (Clovis G. Chappell, Ten Rules for Living, p. 34.) Paul wrote, "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Tim. 6:10). Money can be used for good; however, it can also become a god and causes one to lose their soul. Many things in life can become gods to us if we let them. For example, the god of health, the god of nature, the god of sports, the god of science, learning and worldly wisdom, the god of pleasure, the god of popularity, etc. Whatever we place before God becomes a god and thus is against the God of heaven.

We must never forget that our God is jealous and will not accept second place in our lives. Therefore, let us enjoy all God has given us, but constantly remind ourselves all we have comes from the God of lights, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (Jam. 1:17).

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes.....10:00
Morning Worship11:00
Evening Worship..... 6:00
Wednesday Classes.....6:30

Free Bible Correspondence Course to all who ask. Please call us or write to us and we will help you get started.

Be Blessed!

*"The Lord bless you.
The Lord keep you.
The Lord make His face
to shine upon you
and be gracious
unto you.
The Lord turn His face
toward you
and give you peace!"*

Nu. 6:24-26

Hold on to the Lord Jesus.
Hold on to the faith you have in Him
that leads you away from
the hurts,
the doubts, and
the fears you've had.
Hold on to your faith in Jesus
that makes your heart glad
and leads you toward
hope and life.

The Lord Bless You!

Poem by Ken Fletcher, Jr. © All Rights Reserved/ www.faithclub.org - Art by Greg Olsen

THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME

Johnie Scaggs, Jr.

Moses wrote about the need to understand who God is and to honor Him above all other gods. God is supreme and therefore deserves a high and lofty position in each person’s heart. Thus, when giving the Ten Commandments, Moses wrote, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Ex. 20:3). He later stated, “Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; (For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth” (Deut. 6:14,15). Moses said these were, “...commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:” (Deut. 6:1).

The children of Israel would eventually enter the land of Canaan and conquer the people of that land; they would inherit the land as God had promised them. However, in doing so, they would encounter the so-called gods of the people and be greatly tempted to give in to these gods and worship them. Thus, God warns them of the danger they would face and ensures that if they did not place any other gods before Him, He would bless them and bless the land wherein they dwelt. However, if they bowed before other gods, the God of Heaven would destroy them. As Moses wrote, God is a jealous God and will not tolerate the worship of other gods.

From their history, we learn they did not as a whole heed to God’s warning and often gave into idolatry. As a result, the kingdom was eventually divided into the southern kingdom and the northern kingdom. Jeroboam became the first king over the northern kingdom and quickly turned to idolatry, (1 Kings 12:26-39). This was the beginning of the end. They never returned to the Lord. Instead, their idolatry took them further from the Lord’s commandments than they ever thought possible. We read in 2 Kings 17 that the children of Israel sinned against God by setting idols, burning incense in high places, mixing other religions, and ignoring the statutes and commandments of God, (2 Kings 17:13-16). As a result, the Lord was angry with them and removed them from His sight. (v. 18).

By the time Christ is born, the children of Israel are scattered and, as a whole, are wholly given over to idolatry. From these warnings and seeing the consequences of their actions, we can learn much, which will aid us in serving the one true God.

Jesus said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33). The kingdom of God and His righteousness must be first in our life. Thus, whatever one might place in front of the Lord must be removed to serve Him. Paul wrote, “Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry” (1 Cor. 10:14). He also references idolatry in

FAMILY MATTERS

ONGOING HEALTH PROBLEMS

SICK:

Pat Joiner, Leslie Guevara, Letha Angst, Gracie Pope, Michael Baugh, Melba Wilkins, Brenda Rogers, Jackie Flowers, June Breazeale, Sharon Joiner’s mother, James Parlor, and Gail Brown, Jeff’s brother wife. Please pray for Tim Franks, friend of Jeff Brown’s and his cousin Jan Moses. Freddie Blackshear is in need off our prayers.

LOCAL NEWS

PANTRY ITEMS FOR THE WEEK:

When buying items for the Pantry, try to buy canned goods that have a top on them that can be opened without a can opener.

Pancake Mix and Syrup

NEW YEARS PARTY

On the 9th of February at 6:00 pm we will have a new years party. We will be having hamburgers and hotdogs.

AREA-WIDE SINGING:

The Area-Wide Singing will be today at 3:00 pm

MEN’S MEETING:

The men’s meeting is next Sunday at 4:00 pm.

SINGING:

Our Monthly singing is next Sunday night.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARY FOR THE MONTH OF JAN.

- Joe & Maryann Blackburn1/4/1966
- Jeff Brown1/25/1962
- Peyton Dennis1/16/1999
- Shawn Hickman1/10/1973
- Olivia Sage Morgan1/11/2019
- Amberly Dixie Rose Morgan 1/21/2021
- Crystal Pierce1/29/1973
- Martha Robinson1/14/1950
- Flora Shepherd1/15/1956

Jim Dearman and the TV program “Good News Today” airs on Macon TV every Sunday morning at 6:30 A.M. on WGXA-ABCTV16 both on Cox Cable and over the regular airwaves and may be picked up on an antenna. You can even download an app and see the programs any time you wish. See the website at <http://gnttv.org/> and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Good-News-Today-TV>.

SHUT-IN:

Sonny Teagle, Mary Harris

Welcome to the Bellevue Road Church of Christ. If you are a visitor, you are our honored guest. Please sign the guest book in the foyer.