

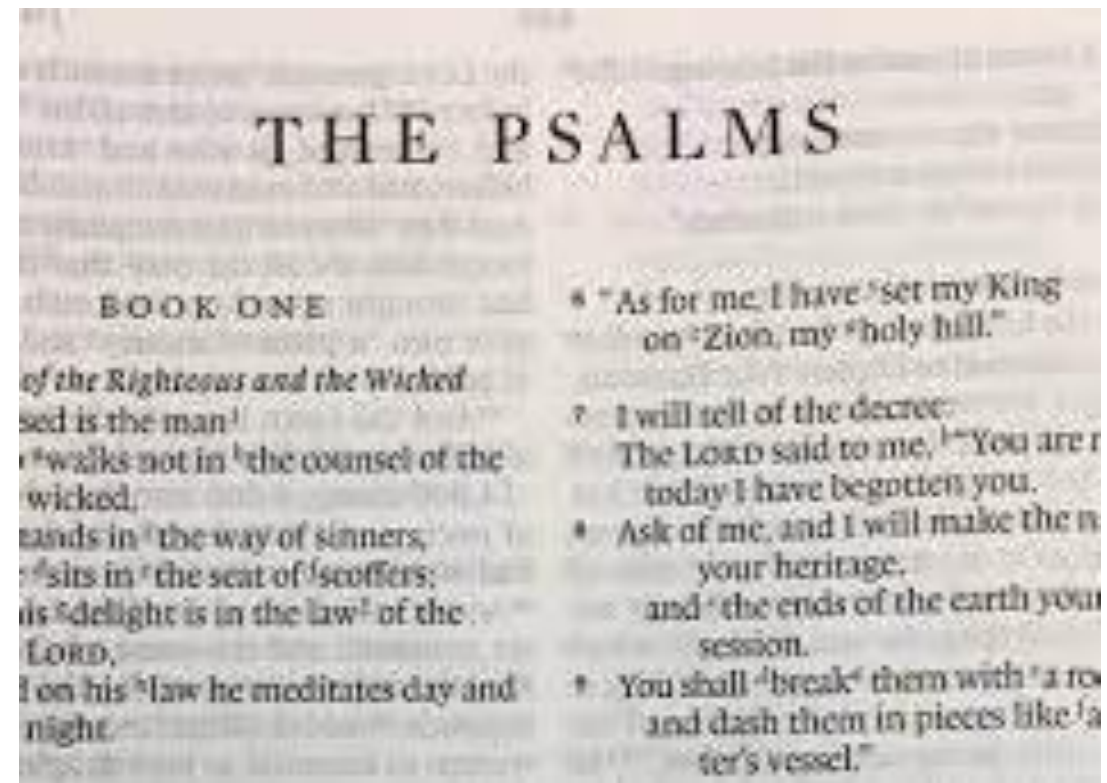
An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are white and filled with small, dark text, likely a printed book. The book is centered in the frame against a solid black background. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the paper and the depth of the text.

Book of Psalms

Part 3 – Turn From Idols

Intro...

- As we travel through the Psalms, we will see that this book addresses our intimacy with God in a true and raw way.
- The reason for the title Devotional series is precisely because the spirit of the Psalms is deeply personal and devotional.
- As we started last session looking at the first Psalm, we understood that this piece introduces the essence of the rest of the volume:
- The heart of the righteous versus that of the unrighteous and how both relate to God or not.



Intro...

- Today, I will be delivering the message the Holy Spirit instructed me to deliver.
- Please do NOT take this message personally and be offended by it. Rather allow it to scrub and clean in the right parts of your Heart if applicable to you.
- Also please consider sharing this message with others in your network, church or family
- The Lord is Coming Back Soon! And we all need to be ready for His appearance:



Suddenly...

- “Behold, I send My messenger,
And he will prepare the way before Me.
And the Lord, whom you seek,
Will suddenly come to His temple,
Even the Messenger of the covenant,
In whom you delight.
Behold, He is coming,”
Says the LORD of hosts.
- ² “But who can endure the day of His coming?
And who can stand when He appears?
For He *is* like a refiner’s fire
And like launderers’ soap.
³ He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver;
He will purify the sons of Levi,
And ^apurge them as gold and silver,
That they may offer to the LORD
An offering in righteousness.
Malachi 3



Suddenly...

- There will be many 'suddenlies' with many of you listening to this message.
- The Lord will show up in ways you did not envision or imagined. So you need to be ready!
- There will be some sudden changes which the Lord will allow or orchestrate Himself.
- Get your heart, head and hands ready and clean for His arrival.
- The Lord is also coming to the Church to prune and purge it.
- The Lord will visit many of His ministers and leaders with varying outcomes.



These Last Days...

- You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times.
 - ²For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred.
 - ³They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good.
 - ⁴They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God.
 - ⁵They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!
- 2 Timothy 3



Darkness

- The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart.
- We need to guard our hearts very carefully because of the spiritually toxic atmosphere over the Earth.
- For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; Isaiah 60:2
- Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, Isaiah 60:2



Why...?

- *Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?
2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us."*
Psalm 2

- The spirit of the antichrist is everywhere in the Earth,
- The End Time Believer cannot afford not to be near God.
- This is the Age to worship God with all your heart so that it will not be corrupted with the anti-God virus.

REBELLION[®]



Psalm 135

- *"For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is **above all gods**. Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps. He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses."*
- This psalm acknowledges the greatness of the Lord and affirms His sovereignty over all gods.
- It highlights the Lord's power and control over nature, emphasizing His superiority over any idols or false gods that people may worship.
- God is above all gods – We are to exalt our Father above everything else that competes for His place in our hearts.
- The first commandment addresses this:

Psalm 4

- *How long, O you sons of men,
Will you turn my glory to shame?*
- *How long will you love worthlessness
And **seek falsehood**? Selah*
- *³ But know that the LORD has set apart
for Himself him who is godly;
The LORD will hear when I call to Him.*
- *⁴ Be angry, and do not sin.
Meditate within your heart on your bed
and be still. Selah*
- *⁵ Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
And put your trust in the LORD.*



In Spirit...

- *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father*
- *in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.*
- *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*
John 4:23





The First Commandment..

*You shall have no other gods before
Me. Exodus 20:3*



GOD FIRST



No Other...

- The human heart was created to worship its Creator as an act of reverence and gratitude.
- That place of worship in our hearts is reserved for One Person alone and that is GOD.
- When we turn to ascribe that which belongs to God to someone or something else, it is called IDOLATRY or Spiritual Adultery.

Shall Not...

- *you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God,* Exodus 20:5
- God is not jealous like human beings, but He uses words we can understand to describe the pain and sin caused by Idolatry
- When someone we loved with all our hearts, betrays our love for an affair or rejects our love; the human heart feels pain and jealousy.
- We cannot replace God with anything or anyone...It is a cardinal sin.



Psalm 96

- ***"For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens."***

Psalm 96:5

- This verse reiterates the message declaring that all gods worshipped by various nations are idols.
- It emphasizes the Lord's role as the Creator of the heavens, reinforcing His superiority over any man-made deities.



Psalm 97

- **Psalm 97:1-7** - *"The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;*
- *righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around.*
- *His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth.*
- *The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory. All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods!"*
- In this psalm, the reign and power of the Lord are exalted. It describes the awe-inspiring manifestations of God's presence and His righteousness and justice.
- The psalmist declares that all worshipers of images will be put to shame and calls for worship to be directed towards the Lord alone.



Idol..

***Little children,
keep yourselves
from idols***

1John 5:21

- **idol**
- [ahyd-l]
 1. *Noun* an image or other material object representing a deity to which religious worship is addressed.
 2. *Bible.*
 1. an image of a deity other than God.
 2. the deity itself.

Idol...

- An *idol* is an object or image, such as a statue, that is worshipped as the representation of a deity or god.
- The word *idol* can also refer to the deity or god that is being worshipped.
- The worship of such an *idol* is sometimes called *idolatry* (or *idol worship*) and the people who do it can be called *idolaters*. The adjective *idolatrous* can be used to describe idolaters or their practices.
- This sense of *idol* and its related terms are typically used in a negative, judgmental way, implying that the god that the *idol* represents is not actually real and that such worship is wrong or sinful. In this way, an *idol* is sometimes called a *false idol*.



Idol...

An idol is when something or someone becomes more important to us than God.



Identity

- Our identity might be one the biggest idols worshiped today. We have largely abandoned who we are in Christ and placed our identity in other things.
- Whether it be our social media following, our position at work, our abilities/skills, or the achievements we are after,
- many have their identity wrapped up in the wrong thing.



Money/Material Things

- Western culture has bowed to money and possessions for generations. The pursuit of money and the acquisition of things is a guiding force for many. It's an idol.
- And listen, you don't have to have money for money to be your idol. It's not about what you have. It's about what you long for. For the rich, the poor, and those in-between money can be an idol that quickly entraps us.
- Hear me on this. Money is not bad. Money is a tool. And like any tool, you have to use it correctly; otherwise, it can cause much damage. Money isn't the problem; it's how we use and view it that can become a problem.
- It becomes a problem when we place our hope and our trust in money instead of trusting in God. Many have placed their hopes and dreams in money. They trust it to provide for them, care for them, and protect them. The problem is, it can't live up to what we are trying to get from it.
- Money has become the ultimate thing for many of us. This is one of the top idolatry examples today.



Jobs & Status

- Jobs used to just be a means to an end. For most people it was just what you did to provide for your family. Now, what you do has become who you are.
- Job dissatisfaction is at an all-time high. Could it be because we've elevated what we do to who we are?
- Now, I'm not saying you shouldn't find a job you enjoy that fits your skills. Nor am I saying we should put up with bad working conditions.
- I'm simply pointing out that maybe part of the problem is we've made our jobs an idol.
- Much of the idol worship today centers around the jobs we do and the positions we hold.



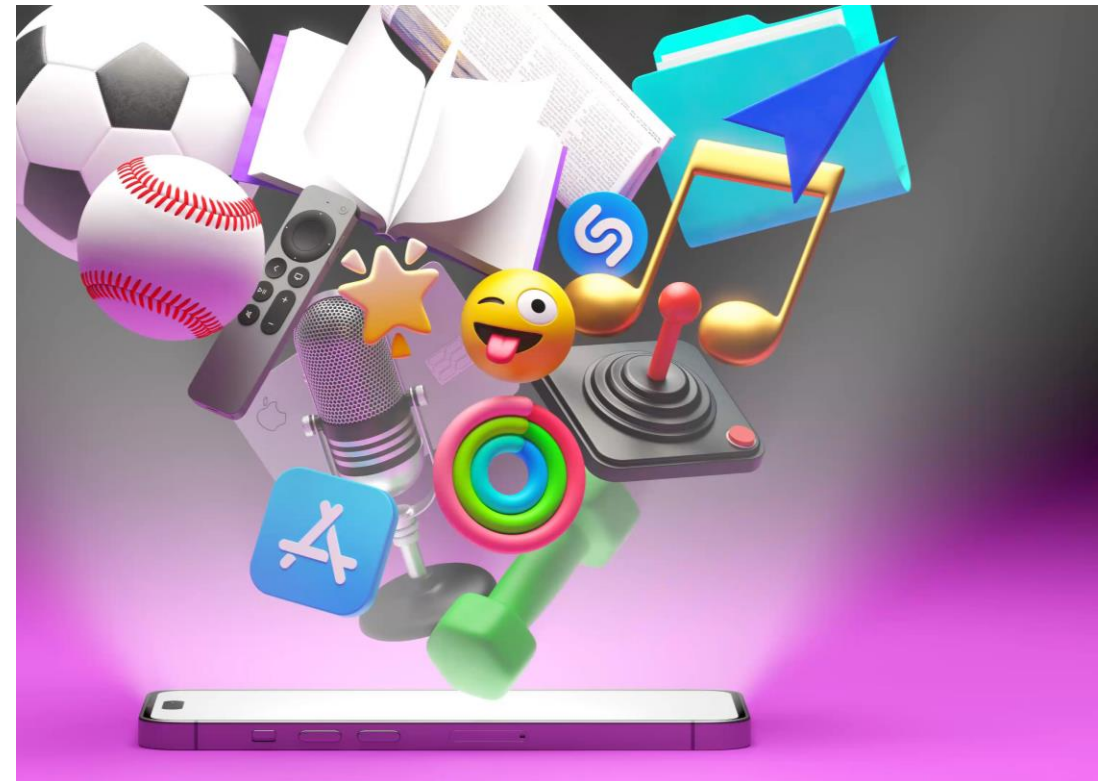
Physical Appearance

- You don't have to look very far to see an advertisement that promises to "fix" our physical appearance. To make us look better, younger, or like your favourite celebrity.
- Why are those so common? They work. Many of us worship our physical appearance. We spend hours in the gym, thousands on products, and constantly think about what others are thinking about us.
- We worship our physical form.
- Again, I'm not saying all that is bad. Going to the gym is a good thing. Showering and doing your hair is a good thing.
- But we ought to be careful to not let this good thing become an ultimate thing. We have a world screaming at us that we NEED this, and we have to remind ourselves of what is true.
- Our physical appearance is a modern-day idol.



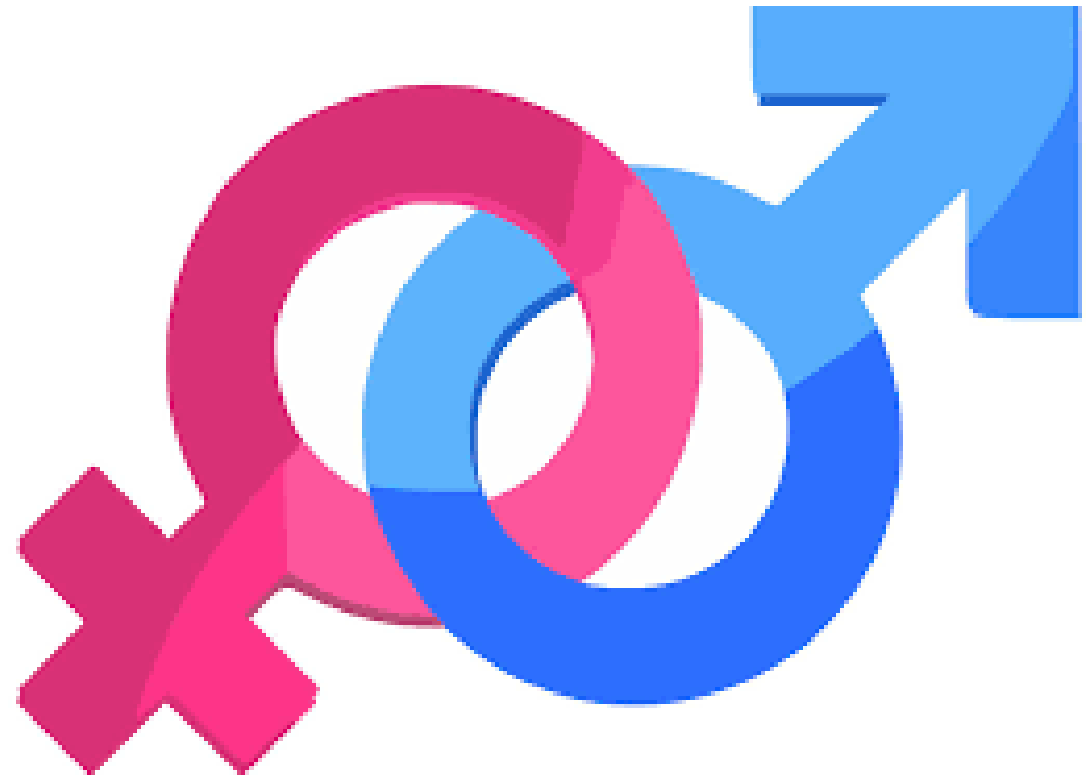
Entertainment

- We are obsessed with being entertained. From Netflix to vacations and podcasts to TikTok. We LOVE entertainment in many forms. Love might not be strong enough, we are obsessed.
- Again, as with the other modern-day idols, it's not that entertainment is bad.
- It can be a good thing. But when our lives become all about the search for entertainment and chase of the best experiences we can find, then it becomes an idol. It's more important than God.
- I would argue that entertainment is good and a gift from God, but we should worship the giver not the gift. And we should enjoy our favourite things in moderation.
- Much of the idol worship today centres around being entertained.



Sex...

- Sex might be the only thing we think about more than money. It's everywhere in our culture. We have taken a gift from God and made it into the god of our lives. And for many, their lives are controlled by sex.
- To even question the sexual ethic in our society will bring outrage and defensiveness, showing how tied to our idol we actually are. Our sexual identity, sexual practices, and sex-filled lives are sacred to us.
- The church has *some* blame for this. Rather than portraying sex as a good gift from God, in recent history, they have heaped guilt and shame.
- You could argue this is one of the factors that brought the over-exaggeration of sex. Culture simply swung the pendulum.
- But regardless of how we got here, sex is a modern-day idol.



Comfort...

- There is an endless list of products promising to simplify and add comfort to your life. We have made our lives much easier and much more comfortable than at any other time in history.
- Tasks that used to take all day can be done in minutes. Many menial tasks are now automated. While that's a good thing, our pursuit in life should not be comfort alone.
- The call that Jesus gives his followers is a life of service, not primarily of comfort.
- Jesus promises that his followers will face trials, persecution, and difficulty. While comfort isn't bad,
- it can become damaging when it becomes the main pursuit in life. When comfort is an idol, we will struggle when God calls us to something difficult.



Phone & Technology

- **Smartphone addiction** is increasingly becoming a worrying trend. This is especially true for Gen Z and Millennial generations, but it's certainly not confined to them. For many, they simply cannot live without their phones (or ONE DAY!
- It's gotten so out of hand that if we are even sitting still for a few minutes, we can't help but reach to pick up our phones.
- Don't believe me? Go into your phone settings on "Screen Time." You can see how many hours a day you spend looking at your phone and how many times you pick it up. If you've never done that, it's shocking.
- If our phones and technology aren't a modern day idol I don't know what is.
- At the heart of this problem isn't our phones or social media or any form of technology. It's the value we place on it that makes it a problem.
- When our lives revolve around how many likes we get, what our following looks like, or if we can't sit in silence for 5 minutes without refreshing our newsfeed, we might have an idol.
- Anything that takes the place of God in our life, anything that becomes more important than Him, is an idol.



Family & Children..

- Let us be clear, your spouse and children are a blessing from God. The Bible is blatantly clear on that.
- But we have the tendency to worship the gifts rather than the giver. And for some their family, their kids, their spouse, have become an idol.
- Let us be clear once again, we are certainly not saying we should rid ourselves of our families.
- That would be wrong on the other end of the spectrum. What we are saying is we should place our families in their proper place. Important,
- but not as important as God. Ultimately that's what's best for them anyway.



Influence & Fame

- With the advent of social media almost anyone has the opportunity to become famous and gain influence.
- All it takes is one viral video or one hot take and suddenly you can have thousands and thousands of followers.
- Past generations tend to idolize their jobs and social status. Younger generations are more drawn toward fame and influence.





Psalm 18: God - Centred

- *I will love You, O LORD, my strength.*
- *² The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;*
- *My God, my ^[a]strength, in whom I will trust;*
- *My shield and the ^[b]horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*
- *³ I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised;
So shall I be saved from my enemies.*
- Psalm 18

**TO BE
CONTINUED...** 

To Be Continued...