

## Identifying Idols

#1 – Look at our \_\_\_\_\_

#2 – Look at how you \_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 8:7-9 – <sup>7</sup> But just as you excel in everything . . . see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

<sup>8</sup> I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

#3 – Look at your real, daily \_\_\_\_\_

#4 – Look at your most \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:1 – 5 says, <sup>1</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. <sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Idols cannot \_\_\_\_\_, they must be \_\_\_\_\_.



HOPE that leads to lasting CHANGE.  
-Colossians 1:5-6

SCC Message by John Aldax, April 11, 2010

Part 1

## Hope & Idolatry

### Jonah

Definition of HOPE:

Relationship between hope and idolatry

**TWO THINGS WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IDOLATRY & HOPE:**

1 – An idol is **anything** \_\_\_\_\_, and it's usually something \_\_\_\_\_ that we have turned into something \_\_\_\_\_.

2 – A idol is **anything** that is \_\_\_\_\_ to your life that, if you lost it, life would not feel like it was worth living. Idols \_\_\_\_\_.

**“Anything can be an idol, and everything has been an idol.”**

Exodus 20:2 – 5 – <sup>2</sup> I am the LORD your God . . . <sup>3</sup> You shall have no other gods before me.”

<sup>4</sup> You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them . . .”

*Idols In Our Culture*

Three Phases of American Culture

In the first era – \_\_\_\_\_

In the second phase – \_\_\_\_\_

In the third phase – \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

## *Idols In Our Religion*

\_\_\_\_\_ can become a counterfeit god

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ can become a counterfeit gods

### *Jonah*

*Jonah 1:1 & 2 –<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai:<sup>2</sup> “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”*

*2 Kings 14:25*

*Jonah 1:3 – Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.*

*Jonah 1:10 – 12 –<sup>10</sup> This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)*

<sup>11</sup> *The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”*

<sup>12</sup> *“Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”*

*Jonah 2 –<sup>1</sup> From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God.<sup>2</sup> He said: “In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry . . .<sup>4</sup> I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple’ . . .<sup>8</sup> “Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.<sup>9</sup> But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD.”<sup>10</sup> And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.*

*Jonah 3 –<sup>1</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,<sup>2</sup> “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.”<sup>3</sup> So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth.<sup>4</sup> Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”<sup>5</sup> And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them . . .*

<sup>10</sup> *When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.*

*Jonah 4:1 – But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry.*

*Jonah 4:2 – 3 –<sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD, “O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.<sup>3</sup> Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”*

Idols distort our \_\_\_\_\_

*Jonah 4:4 – 9 –<sup>4</sup> The LORD said, “Is it good for you to burn with such anger?”*

<sup>5</sup> *Then Jonah went out from the city and sat east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the city.*

<sup>6</sup> *So the LORD God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant.*

<sup>7</sup> *But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day and it attacked the plant and it withered.*

<sup>8</sup> *When the sun came up God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah’s head so that he became faint and begged with all his soul to die, saying, “Death is better to me than life.”*

<sup>9</sup> *Then God said to Jonah, “Is it good for you to be so angry and dejected over the plant?” And he said, “Yes it is. I am angry and dejected enough to die.”*

*Jonah 4:10 – 11 –<sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said, “You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.*

<sup>11</sup> *“Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?”*