

Spring, 1995 Sus, France

Idols and Idolatry

1 John 5:21 — Anything that you sacrifice your fellowship with your Master (God) for is an idol, and the sacrifice is idolatry (worshipping — giving paramount importance and supreme devotion to — what is false). In fact, what you lift up your soul to instead of (in the place of) your Master *actually* is your God.

Psalm 24:3-6 — Here are the qualifications of a true worshipper (Jn 4:23): who has clean hands and a pure heart; who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from YHWH and righteousness from the God of his Salvation. This is Jacob — or Israel — the generation of those who seek Him, "who seek your face." Ps 14:7; Ps 15:1-5

1 John 2:15 — In contrast with the blessing stands the world — the love of the world and the things of the world that a person will sacrifice his or her fellowship with their Master to have. Any kind of sexual thing (perversion) that you know is not pleasing to your Master, but that you do anyway, becomes your master — an idol. Even to have fantasies in your mind to stimulate sexual arousal, you must — in order to have such — *sacrifice your communion with your Master*. No one can have or serve two masters. 1 Cor 10:20-21 No one can drink out of two cups at once, eat off of two tables, etc. Fellowship with an evil spirit (demon) provokes our Master to jealousy. (1 Cor 10:22)

Psalm 25:1-2

Remember what a sacrifice is: to give up something you love for something you deem greater and more important (or love more) — a temptation, feeling, sensation, or security that you long for *more than your communion with Yahshua*. First place and first priority always goes to what or who you love more. All else is sacrificed to have what you want more.

John 12:24-26; Mt 16:24-26; Mk 8:34-36; Mt 10:34-38

Lk 12:49-53 — This is the sacrificial fire where Messiah's followers lay all things on the altar for Him. Lk 14:26-34

Forsaking what you know is God's will for what you want to do is idolatry — even your "gift." When "functioning in your gift" interferes with loving your brothers, then your gift is for yourself — for your own glory — and this is idolatry. "You receive glory." (Jn 5:44 — But our Master said, "I do not receive glory." — Jn 5:41)

Matthew 23 is for us (esp. v. 5-12 & 28). Your gift is for the Body, to build it up (Eph 4:12, 16, 29), not for yourself, to build you up — or rather "puff you up." (1 Cor 8:1)

Idolatry is anything you can't give praise or thanks for — eating, drinking, listening to music, watching TV, looking at magazines — or playing your musical instruments. Anything that takes priority (or pre-occupies your thoughts, time, or energy), that is what possesses you. (2 Tim 2:26) EVERY FORM OF GREED IS IDOLATRY. BEWARE! (Lk 12:15; Eph 5:5)

So whatever your mind is preoccupied with (whatever you focus your attention upon) that is not glorifying God, loving your brother, or building the Kingdom (1 Cor 3:10-17; Is 49:17) — whatever takes your eyes off Yahshua, or keeps you from praying and focusing your attention on your God — is a false god, an idol, for you.

The question in Psalm 24:3 is this: Who will ascend to His holy hill? Verse 4 is the exclusive answer. So you must sacrifice your clean hands and pure heart in order to have an idol or lift up your soul to something false. The very definition of sacrifice is to give something up for the sake of something else. *So what do you want more?* We gave up our lives as a sacrifice in order to have Him. We crucified our old man to gain Him.

Romans 6:2-6 — But if we hang on to our lives, we will lose them.

The fire Messiah spoke of in Luke 12:49 was His own sacrifice first, then ours. This is the Sacrificial Fire where Messiah had to lay on the altar everything that would keep the Kingdom from coming to earth. He came for the very purpose of casting this Fire upon the earth. This Sacrificial Fire will grow to a fervor so intense that it will burn up everything that stands in the way of or hinders His Kingdom coming.

This, and nothing less than this, is what it means to be the light of the world.

Is 49:6; Mt 5:14.