

# Message

## Tragic Result of Idolatry



*Neal Parker*

# Tragic Result of Idolatry

- **Deuteronomy 5:4-15** - Idolatry is the most frequently committed sin, with five of the Ten Commandments dealing directly with covetousness and idolatry, emanating from an excessive concern with self.
- Our individual system of beliefs from where we regulate our lives and derive our ethical code is just that—our own unique system of ethics, morality, and worship that seems right to us.



# Tragic Result of Idolatry

- **If we make a covenant with God, we must stay loyal, obeying God rather than man. Character is forged in making the choice between God and the world, creating a perpetual war within our minds. In the current secular progressive climate, God is disregarded, and His Laws have been watered down to situation ethics, with compromise and pragmatism determining moral decisions.**



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## ■ Romans 1:24-25

- *Worship* is the devoted service one gives to what one regards above all, and what one regards above all is that person's God.
- The first commandment says what we are to worship, and what we are to worship is the Creator God. Nothing else is to be given that kind of devotion.



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## ■ Colossians 3:5

- Covetousness is idolatry.
- Five of the Ten Commandments directly deal with idolatry. The first four define our relationship with God, and the tenth as well.



**THOU SHALT  
NOT COVET**

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## ■ Romans 14:22-23

- Clash of conscience, a clash of values within any individual who is faced with making decisions, that he is unsure as to what is really right and what is really wrong.
- It produces confusion, and in some cases it produces fear, and it leaves one conscience-stricken. It makes a person feel uneasy about what he is permitting himself to do.
- Are you sure that you are right, even though you are not conscience-stricken?

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## ■ John 4:24

- Christianity is a way of life. It is a course of conduct encompassing every aspect of life.
- To worship in spirit, we must be concerned with spiritual realities, not so much with places, outward sacrifices, cleansings and trappings.
- To worship in truth, we must worship according to the whole counsel of God's Word, not in pretense or a mere display of spirituality.
- The lie puts us or other created things, in the place of God. It is the same lie stated in Genesis 3:5, "...you will be like God...".

# Tragic Result of Idolatry

- **Christianity is a way of life. It is a course of conduct encompassing every aspect of life**
  - **We have to respond to Him in our home**
  - **Proverbs 24:3-4 ESV**
    - **By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.**
  - **Proverbs 3:33 ESV**
    - **The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous.**



# Tragic Result of Idolatry

- **Christianity is a way of life. It is a course of conduct encompassing every aspect of life**
  - **We have to respond to Him in the way we speak and act toward one another.**
- **Ephesians 4:29 ESV**
  - **Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.**
- **Colossians 4:6 ESV**
  - **Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.**

# Tragic Result of Idolatry

- **Christianity is a way of life. It is a course of conduct encompassing every aspect of life**
  - We have to respond to Him in the way we rear our children.
- **Proverbs 22:6 ESV**
  - Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.
- **Ephesians 6:4 ESV**
  - Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

# Tragic Result of Idolatry

- **Christianity is a way of life. It is a course of conduct encompassing every aspect of life**
  - We have to respond to Him in the way we work.
- **Colossians 3:23-24 ESV**
  - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.
- **I Timothy 5:8 ESV**
  - But, if anyone does not provide for his relatives and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

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## ■ Proverbs 16:25

- There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death

KJV Translation Count — Total: 705x

The KJV translates Strong's H1870 in the following manner: way (590x), toward (31x), journey (23x), manner (8x), *miscellaneous* (53x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I. way, road, distance, journey, manner
  - A. road, way, path
  - B. journey
  - C. direction
  - D. manner, habit, way
  - E. of course of life (fig.)
  - F. of moral character (fig.)

Strong's Definitions [?] (Strong's Definitions Legend)

**דֶּרֶךְ** *derek*, deh'-rek; from H1869; a road (as trodden); figuratively, a course of life or mode of action, often adverb:—along, away, because of, by, conversation, custom, (east-) ward, journey, manner, passenger, through, toward, (high-) (path-) way(-side), whither(-soever).

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## ■ Jeremiah 10:1-5

- **Do not learn the way of the Gentiles:** At the end of **Jeremiah 9**, God pointed out that His people were like the uncircumcised nations in their lack of knowing God and their wicked conduct. Here is a plea to separate themselves from the foolish customs of the nations that do not know God.
- **Do not learn the way of the Gentiles:** “The verb *learn* (Hebrew *tilmadu*) may have overtones of ‘becoming a disciple.’ Hence one translation is, ‘Do not be disciples of the religion of the nations.’”  
(Thompson)



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## ■ Revelation 18:4-8

- **Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins:** It is inconceivable that a child of God could be a part of religious Babylon (though elements may creep in). But commercial Babylon, with its materialistic lure, is a constant threat to be guarded against.
- **Lest you receive of her plagues:** The warning is focused towards saints who are in the position Lot was in while he lived in the city of Sodom ([Genesis 19](#)). These are God's people in a place they shouldn't be, a place ripe for destruction.
- **Come out of her:** The call to depart from Babylon and the worldliness that it represents is a theme repeated frequently in the Scriptures.

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## ■ John 6:44

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

## ■ I Timothy 2:14-16

Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase *to more ungodliness.*





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## ■ I John 5:13-21

- **Sin not leading to death** (Possibly, sinning of ignorance; deception because the Father has not yet called them to the Sower of the Word of God / Light. We should pray that God might grant repentance,).
- **Sin leading to death** (Possibly, sinning with a high hand/presumptuously; a heart of idolatry. The Father has called them to the Sower of the Word of God / Light. They have tasted of the mercies of Jesus Christ's sacrifice.



# **Spiritual Application: Tragic Result of Idolatry**

- **Consider our individual system of beliefs from where we regulate our lives and derive our ethical code is just that—our own unique system of ethics, morality, and worship that seems right to us.**
- **This is the tragic result of idolatry is death (like all unrepented sin). There are many avenues of idolatry for us to consider.**
- **Evaluate our views of the Sabbath, Law of God, Holy Days, etc., God may challenge us to either defend our body of beliefs or drop them in favor of His.**