

BOOT CAMP: EQUIPPING MEN OF
INTEGRITY FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE

WHAT MUST BE PUT TO DEATH?

CHAPTER 7:

IDOLATRY

WHAT AM I PLEDGING

MY HEART TO??

- If we had forgotten the name of our God or extended our hands to a strange god, would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.
(Psa 44.20–21, NASB)

Define: Idolatry

- Idolatry is the universal human tendency to value something or someone in a way that hinders the love and trust we owe to God. It is an act of theft from God whereby we use some part of creation in a way that steals from honor due to God.

OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLE:

- **SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO**

Daniel 3:19-30 New Living Translation (NLT) **The Blazing Furnace**

19 Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. **20** Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. **21** So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments. **22** And because the king, in his anger, had demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames killed the soldiers as they threw the three men in. **23** So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, securely tied, fell into the roaring flames. **24** But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, “Didn’t we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?” “Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did,” they replied. **25** “Look!” Nebuchadnezzar shouted. “I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god[!]” **26** Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire. **27** Then the high officers, officials, governors, and advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn’t even smell of smoke! **28** Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him. They defied the king’s command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. **29** Therefore, I make this decree: If any people, whatever their race or nation or language, speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble. There is no other god who can rescue like this!” **30** Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon.

- What do we learn from this story??
 - If we stand against idolatry we will be persecuted
 - if we stand against idolatry we will have God on our side.
 - If we stand against idolatry God will be promoted (in this life or the next as God wills)

What are the signs of Idolatry in our lives??

- Sign 1: COVETOUSNESS
- Covetousness- having or showing a great desire to possess something belonging to someone else
- “Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming” (Col 3.5–6)

GOD, GIVE ME EVERYTHING I WANT!!!



COVETOUS

*For the love of money is the root of all evil,
which while some coveted after, they have
arrived from the faith, and pierced themselves
through with many sorrows.
1 Timothy 4:10*

- Any time the things of this world come between me and God, I've erected an idol in my life. That's precisely why the gauntlet has already been thrown down by the Son of God himself:
- “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Matt 6.24)

- Sign 2: **MATERIALISM**
- Materialism – an overcoming desire for wealth and material possessions with little or no interest in ethical or spiritual matters
- I will ponder the way that is blameless. Oh when will you come to me? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house; I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. (Psa 101.2–3)



MATERIALISM
SPENDING MONEY YOU DON'T HAVE
ON CRAP YOU DON'T NEED!!

- MATERIALISM IS DIFFERENT FROM COVETOUSNESS IN THAT WE ARE CONSUMED BY THE BIGGER AND BETTER “STUFF” OF THIS WORLD.
- THE MAIN MOTIVATION BEHIND MATERIALISM IS GREED.
- THE COMMERCIALS THE INTERNET, THE EASY PAYMENT PLANS ARE ALL TRAPS TO ENSARE US TO BUY INTO MATERIALISM.

- Sign 3: **BUSYNESS:**
- Busyness – the act of engaging in much activity without yielding much reward.
- **Mark 8:36 King James Version (KJV)**
³⁶ For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

EVEN IF YOU WIN THE RAT RACE,
YOUR STILL JUST A RAT.



- THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING AND GOD CAN GIVE US THE WISDOM TO LIVE LIFE THE WAY IT SHOULD BE LIVED
- TIME FOR FAMILY, TIME TO REST, TIME FOR GOD, AND TIME FOR CHILDREN.
- JESUS SAID IN JOHN 10:10 “AND I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND THAT LIFE MORE ABUNDANT”

HOW ABOUT US??

WHAT IDOLS HAVE WE CREATED???

THERE IS A LIFE THAT GOD HAS CALLED US TO...WE CAN'T ENJOY LIFE IF WE ARE WORSHIPPING AT THE ALTER OF COVETOUSNESS, MATERIALISM AND BUSYNESS...HOW DO WE GET THINGS RIGHT? WE MUST SET OUR PRIORITIES. THIS IS HOW WE STAY AWAY FROM IDOLATRY.

1. How many times in the average week do you worry about money and the things that you own?
2. How much debt are you in?
3. If you're married, how many arguments with your spouse revolve in one way or another around money and its use?
4. How much of that worry, how much of that debt, and how many of those arguments have been brought on as a direct result of greed for things that you didn't truly need?