

**ARE WE IDOLATERS?**

Isaiah 46:5-7

## INTRODUCTION

- A. PS 135:15-18.
- B. The Idolater...
  - 1. Carves an idol to his liking & bedecks it
  - 2. Then, he worships that which he has made with his own hands
  - 3. Is it possible that we have carved out an image of God in our own minds?
  - 4. People sometimes make frightening statements that betray a carved-out god, rather than the God we read about in the Bible.
  - 5. Are we idolaters?
  - 6. To avoid modern-day idolatry...

## DISCUSSION

- I. RECOGNIZE GOD'S INNATE PERSONALITY – JA 1:5.
  - A. It's His very nature! (cf. JN 3:16; 2 PE 1:3; Acts 17:28.
  - B. To whom does God give?
  - C. How does God give?
  - D. God is "the King with the open hands"!
  - E. "But, everything in life isn't always good—if God is a giving God, He must have given me this problem..."
- II. EMPHASIZE GOD'S INFALLIBLE PURITY – JA 1:13.
  - A. If it's bad, it didn't come from God!
  - B. If it's wrong, it didn't originate with God!
  - C. Isaiah 45:7: "I make peace and create evil" – context!
  - D. "Act of God"???
  - E. We need a proper understanding of the God we serve.
  - F. As such, James encourages us to...
- III. MAXIMIZE GOD'S INTIMATE PROVISION JA 1:16-17.
  - A. "Do not err..." – Gr. *planao* – "to cause to stray, to lead astray, lead aside from the right way..."
  - B. He does not give that which is evil, but that which is good.
  - C. Parents & children compared to God & His children.
  - D. Satan deceived Eve by changing her thinking toward God's provisions (GE 3).
  - E. Some today think they can save themselves.
    - 1. Salvation is *ανωθεν* "from above." (JN 3:3-5).
    - 2. Every good & perfect gift is *ανωθεν* "from above." (JA 1:17).
    - 3. Do we have a proper concept of the God of heaven?
- IV. UTILIZE GOD'S INSPIRED PATTERN – JA 1:21-25.
  - A. Lay aside filthiness & overflow of wickedness.
  - B. Receive the Word with all meekness of heart.
  - C. We must not stop at hearing...we must utilize the Word, putting God's perfect pattern into practice in our lives!
  - D. Are we idolaters?

## CONCLUSION

- A. "Little children, keep yourselves from idols" (1 JN 5:21). HOW?
- B. Recognize God's Innate Personality – JA 1:5. He is a giver!
- C. Emphasize God's Infallible Purity – JA 1:13. He doesn't give us that which is evil!
- D. Maximize God's Intimate Provision – JA 1:17. He only gives us good gifts!
- E. Utilize God's Inspired Pattern – JA 1:21, 25. It will save your soul!