

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Acts 14:13-15](#).
- B. It is very difficult to find a true atheist. Everyone believes in something or someone. It may be that they believe in their mouth, or their ability, or in someone else. Everyone has their "gods."
- C. The good news of the gospel is that we can turn from all idols and worship the living God that made the heavens and the earth (Exo. 20:4).
- D. God will never transfer His glory or allow praise to be given to a graven image (Isa. 42:8).

II. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF IDOLS.

- A. Idols are the works of men's hands (Deut. 4:28).
- B. Men, including the poor, will go to great lengths in building an idol (Isa. 40:18-20).
- C. But there are no idols, no matter how well made or how materially valuable that can save. The creator is always greater than the creature (Isa. 45:20; Rom. 1:25).
- D. Idols are unworthy of worship by intelligent beings (Ac. 17:29).

II. EXAMPLE OF VANITY IN IDOL WORSHIP.

- A. Nebuchadnezzar had a golden image set up which was to be worshipped (Dan. 3:7).
- B. Belshazzar worshipped idols, and his kingdom fell (Dan. 5:23).
- C. Israel worshipped idols under the leadership of Aaron while Moses was on the mountain (Exo. 32:1-8; 1Cor. 10:7).
- D. Vanity and the sin of speaking to idols is mentioned in the Bible (Hab. 2:18-20). This has nothing to do with being silent in a church building (Ac. 17:29).

III. NEW TESTAMENT WARNINGS AGAINST IDOLATRY.

- A. Idolatry is abominable, that is, disgusting, very disagreeable (1Pet. 4:3).
- B. When Xians went places where idol worship is practiced many different kinds of sin were present (Col. 3:5). What kinds of places should we view as disgusting?
- C. Idolatry is a deed of the flesh so bad, as to the breaking of fellowship (Gal. 5:20; 1Cor. 5:10,11).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. What is idolatry? It is anyone or anything which is worshipped, served, and loved rather than God.
- B. We must serve, worship, and love God first and then love others second. We are to love other people out of our love for God.
- C. Remember the warning of John (1Jn. 5:21).
- D. Be as Paul, Barnabas, and the other apostles and turn from idols (vain things) to serve a living God (Ac. 14:15).
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.