

WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE

MODERN

Idolatry

ROMANS 1:18-25

WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE

Idolatry is a major theme of the Bible.



Over 30
Pagan/false
gods
mentioned
in the Bible.

2

EGYPTIAN GODS

IDOLATRY IS
THE
DETHRONING
OF THE ONE
TRUE GOD IN
OUR HEART &
REPLACING
HIM WITH
ANYTHING
OR ANYONE
ELSE!

WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE

- Material images are not necessary for one to practice idolatry.
- Anything competing in our hearts with God when it comes to our trust, dependance, affection & love - Mat 6:19-24; Col 3:5

Money

Power

Status

Physical Appearance

Pleasure

Leisure

Social Change

RELIGION

WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE

ROMANS 1:18-25 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them.

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ROMANS 1:18-25 (NKJV)

²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

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ROMANS 1:18-25 (NKJV)

²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. ²⁴

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE

ROMANS 1:18-25 (NKJV)

²⁵ who exchanged the truth of
God for the lie, and
worshiped and served the
creature rather than the
Creator, who is blessed
forever. Amen.

WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE

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Amen.

Disobedience
Ignorance
More Disobedience
Ungrateful
Pride
Materialistic

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WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE

~~CHRISTIANITY~~ FALSE RELIGION IS IDOLATRY!

- Much of what is commonly called “Christianity” in our culture is not only very dissimilar to biblical Christianity, but is actually a form of idolatry.

Money

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2 CORINTHIANS 11:3-4 (NKJV)

³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴ For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE

WHEN GOD IS VIEWED AS A MEANS TO AN END



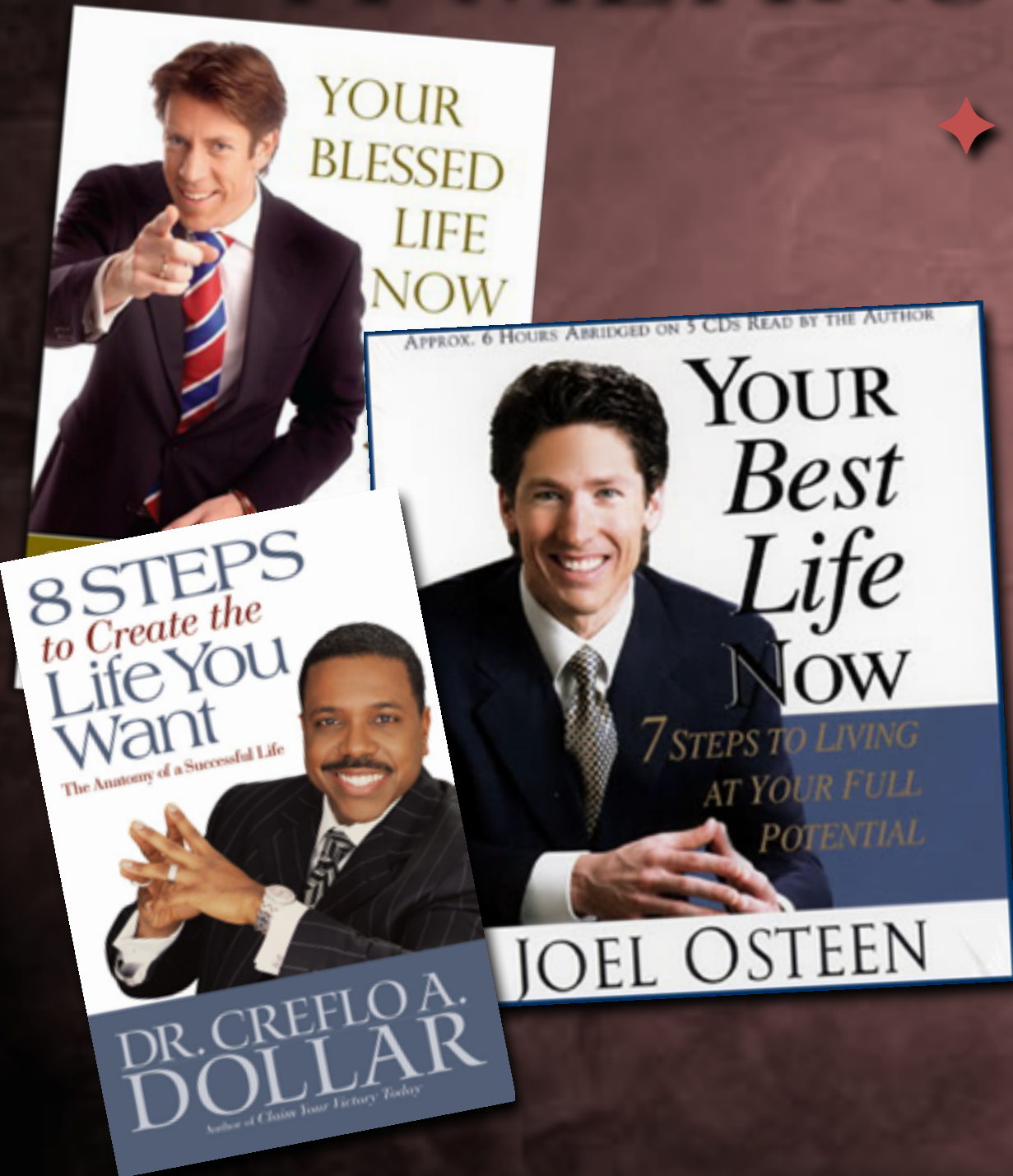
- ◆ AN IDOLATROUS GOD IS SIMPLY A MEANS TO AN END.
- ◆ THE ANCIENTS WOULD :
 - ✦ Worship a fertility goddess in order to be fertile.
 - ✦ Make sacrifices to the god of war in order to have victory on the battlefield.
 - ✦ Try to please the god of the seas in order to ensure a safe voyage.

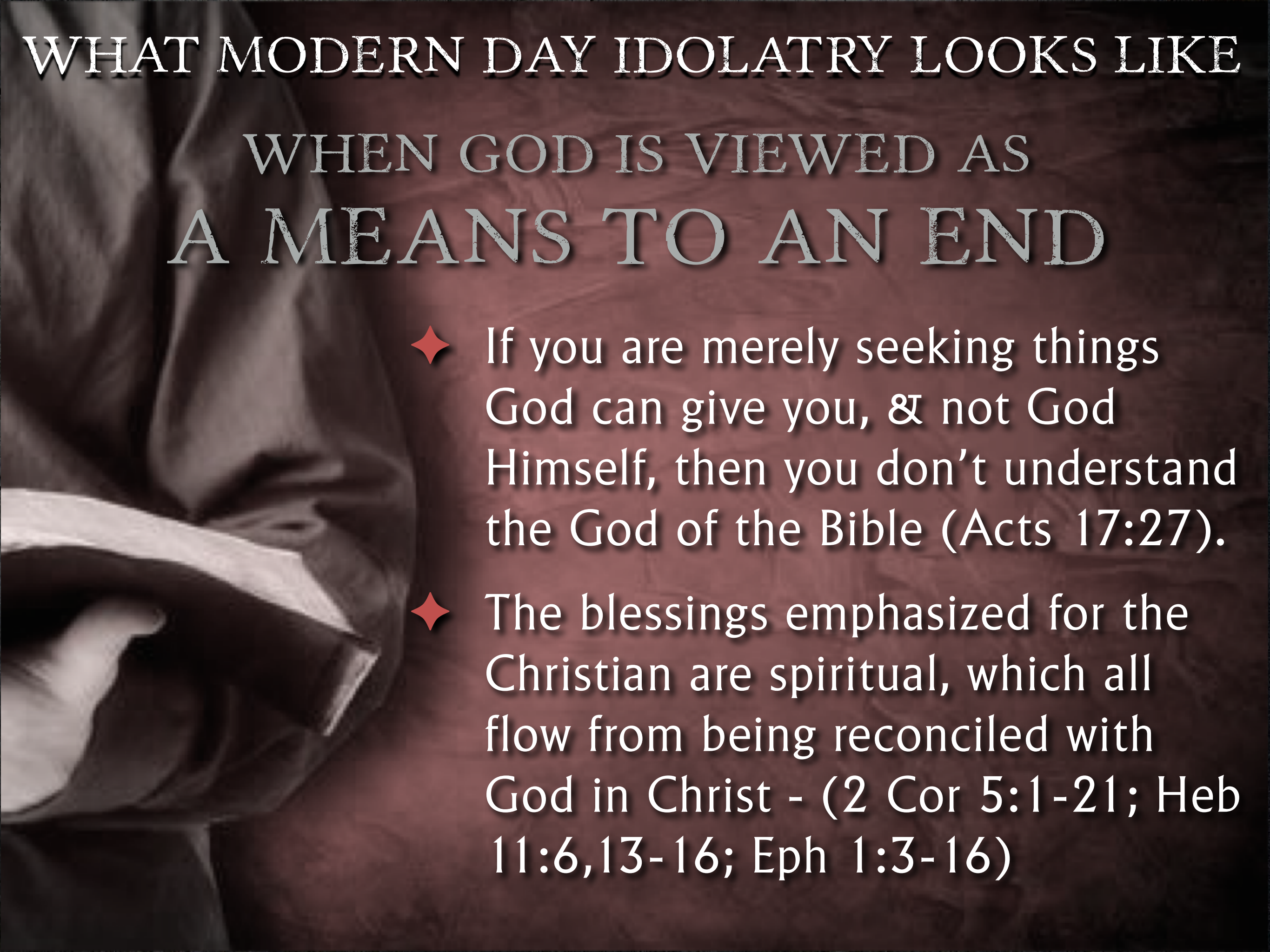
WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE WHEN GOD IS VIEWED AS A MEANS TO AN END

♦ MANY THINK OF GOD AS THE
MEANS TO THEIR END:

✱ Worshiping & serving Him in
order to get the things we want
- (“health & wealth” /
“happiness” / “financial stability
& security” / physical well
being” - Col 3:1-5

✱ Many worship God because they
think He will provide the stuff
they want, now and for eternity.





WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE WHEN GOD IS VIEWED AS A MEANS TO AN END

- ◆ If you are merely seeking things God can give you, & not God Himself, then you don't understand the God of the Bible (Acts 17:27).
- ◆ The blessings emphasized for the Christian are spiritual, which all flow from being reconciled with God in Christ - (2 Cor 5:1-21; Heb 11:6,13-16; Eph 1:3-16)

WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE

WHEN THE PERSONAL GOD BECOMES A PERSONALIZED GOD



- ◆ AN IDOL IS A PERSONALIZED GOD- PERSONALIZED TO WHATEVER THE IDOL-WORSHIPER WANTS IT TO BE.
- ✳ Many have made for themselves a god that accepts them in their sin - it thinks like they do - it does what they want - Rom 1:23; Is 55:6-9
- ✳ It is common, after teaching someone about the true & living God, for them to say ... “Well, I just don’t believe in a God like that.”

WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE WHEN THE PERSONAL GOD BECOMES A PERSONALIZED GOD

- ◆ GOD IS GOD AND WE ARE NOT.
- Rom 1:20,21; Acts 17:30; Prov 1:7;
15:33; 1 Cor 2:16; Job 40:2; Rom 11:34
- ◆ GOD IS PERSONAL & CANNOT
BE WORSHIPPED VICARIOUSLY.
- Rom 1:23; Acts 17:30; Jn 4:24
- ◆ WE MUST BE CONFORMED TO
HIS IMAGE - THERE IS NO
OTHER WAY! - Rom 1:24,25, ... 18;
12:1,2; Eph 5:1; Rom 6:16-18

WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE

DEMAND OUR TEACHERS BE OUR “SOOTHSAYER”



- ◆ A PROPHET OR SOOTHSAYER OF AN IDOLATROUS GOD TOLD PEOPLE WHATEVER THEY WANTED TO HEAR.
- ✦ He would throw bones on the ground, pull the insides out of an animal, read a palm, or gaze into a crystal ball and say, “The gods are pleased with you and they say you will have a bountiful harvest this season.” - 1 Kings 22:18

WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE

DEMAND OUR TEACHERS BE OUR “SOOTHSAYER”


Rom 1:18 - - - who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom 1:25 - - - who exchanged the truth of God for the lie

Rom 1:28 - - - they did not like to retain God in their knowledge,

2 TIMOTHY 4:3-4 (NKJV)

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.



WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE DEMAND OUR TEACHERS BE OUR “SOOTHSAYER”

- ✦ There were many false prophets in Old Testament times & the apostles warned us there would be false teachers wearing the name of Christ: 2 Pet 2:1; Jude 1:3-4; 2 Cor 11:13-15
- ✦ We can be our own “soothsayer!” - 1 Cor 15:33; Gal 6:7-9; 1 John 1:8; 2:3-6; 3:7
- ✦ We can even use the Bible in a way that supports our self deception - 2 Tim 2:15; Gal 1:6-9; 2 Pet 3:16,17

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Amen.

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Looking to God as a
means to get what
we want

Exchanging The
Personal God Into a
Personalized God
Demanding our
teachers be our
"Soothsayers"

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WHAT MODERN DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE

Is there anything competing in your heart with God when it comes to your trust, affections & love? - Mat 6:19-24; Col 3:5

DRUGS

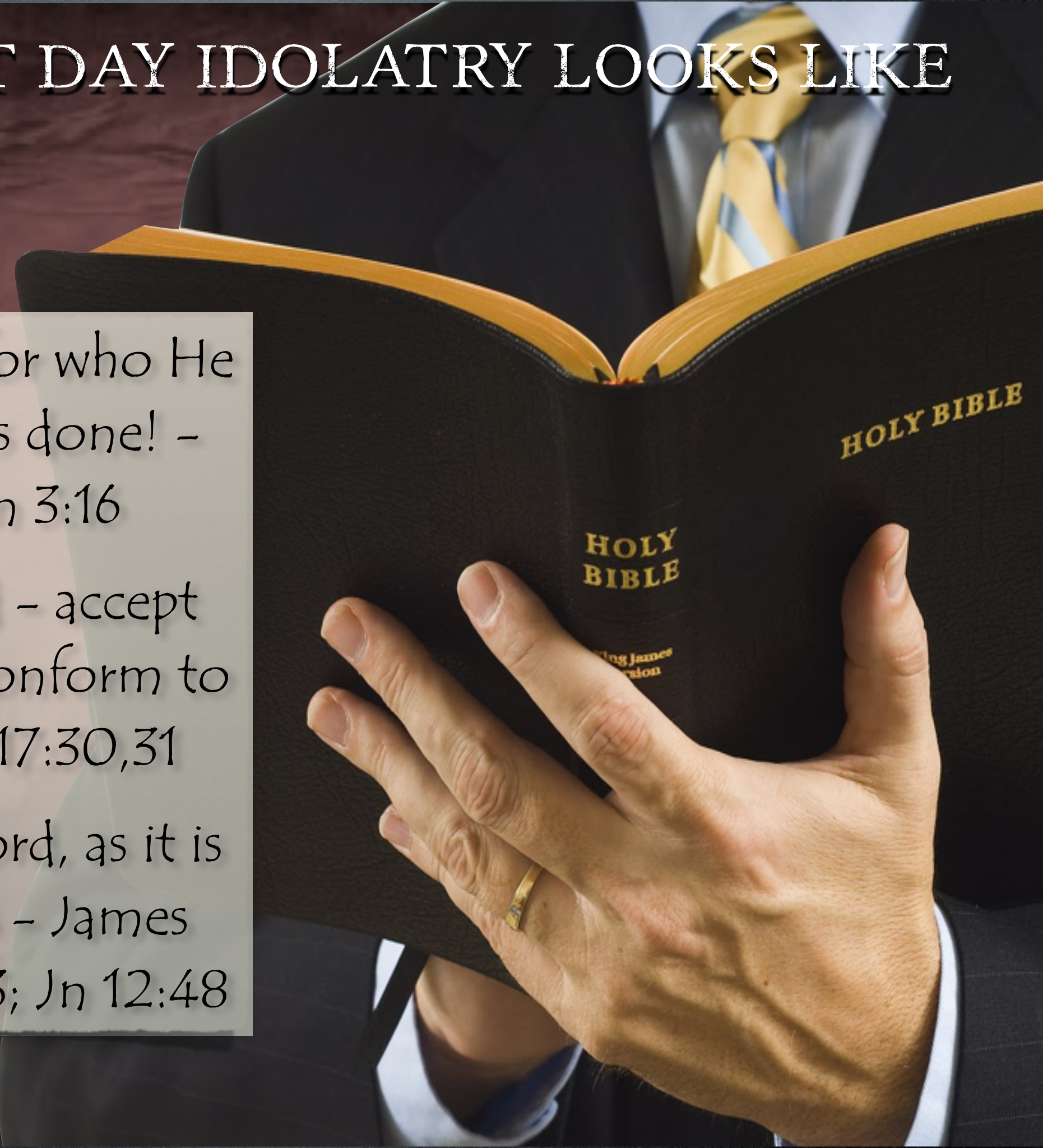
Cocktails

WHAT THAT DAY IDOLATRY LOOKS LIKE

Let us seek God for who He
is & what He has done! –
Rom 1:20; Jn 3:16

Let God be God – accept
Him as He is & conform to
His will – Acts 17:30,31

Receive God's word, as it is
– obey it as it is – James
1:21; 1 Pet 1:22,23; Jn 12:48



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Has American "Christianity" Basically Become Idolatry?

Wes — September 2, 2015

<http://www.radicallychristian.com/has-american-christianity-basically-become-idolatry>

Charts by Don McClain

Prepared September 3-5, 2015 -

Preached September 6, 2015

West 65th Street church of Christ/ P.O.

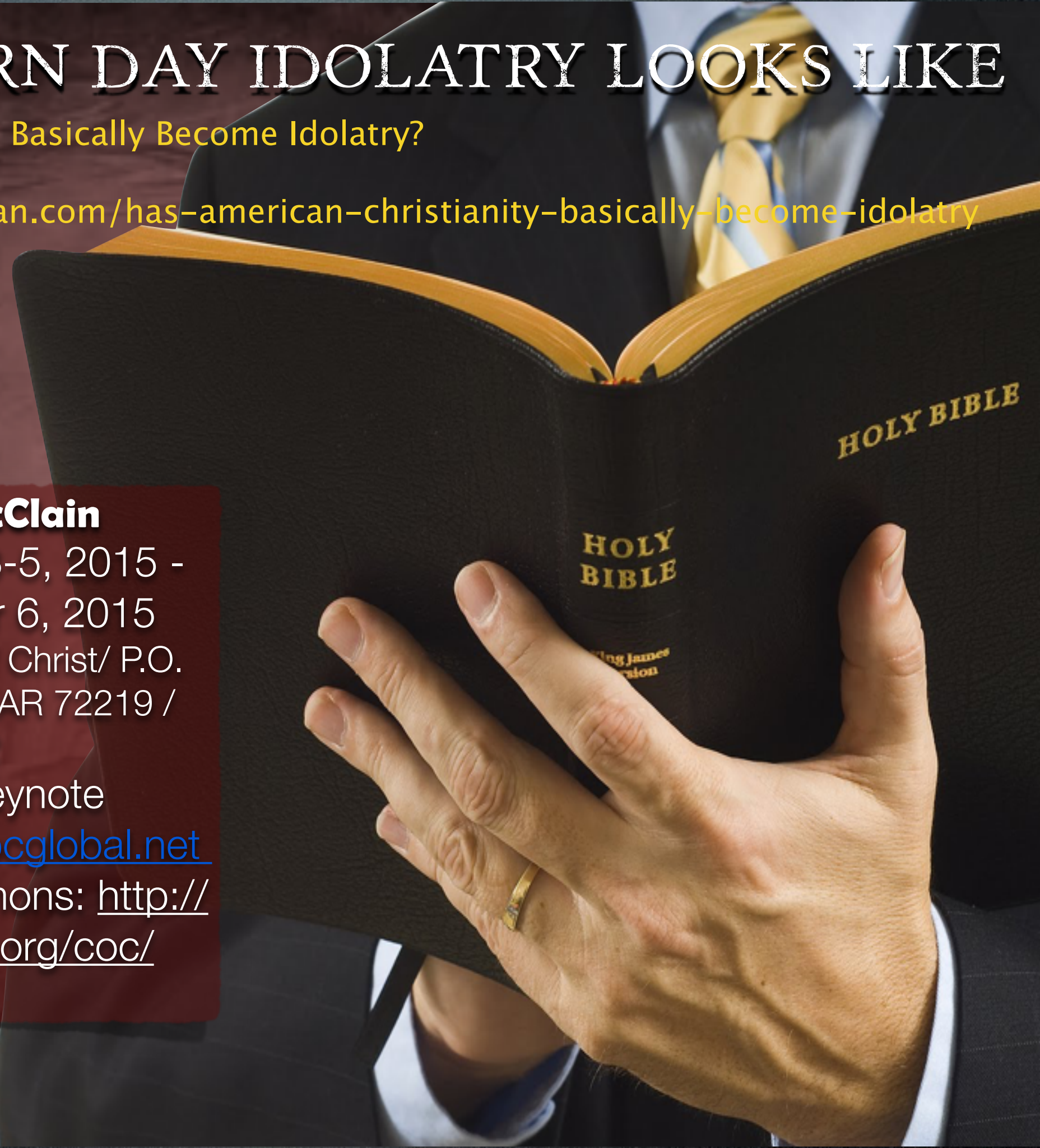
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2 CORINTHIANS 10:14-11:4 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For we are not overextending ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ;

¹⁵ not boasting of things beyond measure, that is, in other men's labors, but having hope, that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere,

2 CORINTHIANS 10:14–11:4 (NKJV)

¹⁶ to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment. ¹⁷ But "he who glories, let him glory in the Lord." ¹⁸ For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends. ¹ Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:14-11:4 (NKJV)

² For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. ³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:14-11:4 (NKJV)

⁴ For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!