



The Sin of Idolatry (Part 1)

When the word "idolatry" is mentioned, most religious folks probably call to mind a debunked religious system that is outdated and not generally practiced. Why ought the worshipper of God be concerned with the sin of idolatry? The truth is that there are many in the religious world today practice idolatry. People of the Hindu religion have various wooden and stone carvings and manifestations of their deities. Buddhists typically have a "Buddha" statue to which they give offerings of one kind or another. And in recent years there has been a revival of paganism which goes hand in hand with idolatry. Even some who profess Christianity have unwittingly substituted idol worship for the worship of the living God. The fact of the matter is that idolatry is still alive and well in our world today.

From reading the Old Testament, one would think that the sin of idolatry would be clearly enough defined that those who believe in the Bible wouldn't have anything to do with practicing it today. Leviticus 19:4 states, "Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 26:1 says, "Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God." And in the

Ten Commandments God says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me" (Exodus 20:3-5). We get the picture from these verses that an idol is any carved, fashioned, or molded image that is in the likeness of anything that exists in heaven or earth which has been erected for devotees to serve or worship.

What kind of service or worship would one offer to an idol? The scriptures are clear. One is not to make an idol (Leviticus 19:4, 26:1). One is not to follow an idol (1 Kings 21:26). One is not to bow down to an idol (Leviticus 26:1). One is not to pray to an idol (Isaiah 44:17, 45:20). One is not to offer sacrifices to idols (Hosea 13:2). One is not to seek idols (Isaiah 19:3). One is not to bless an idol (Isaiah 66:3). One is not to set up an idol (Leviticus 26:1). One is not to lift up one's eyes to idols (Ezekiel 18:6, 12, 15, 33:25). One is not to praise an idol (Isaiah 42:8). Any kind of religious devotion that one may consider is forbidden in the

concepts of worshipping or serving an idol.

Unlike the Old Testament writers, who give us multiple detailed descriptions of idolatry, New Testament writers expect one to understand the definition of the term from the Old Testament (Romans 15:4). What we find in the New Testament is the simple prohibition of idolatry. The Apostles commanded Gentile Christians to abstain from the pollution of idols in Acts 15:20, 29. Idolaters are people with whom we are to have no fellowship (1 Corinthians 15:11). Those who practice such will not inherit the kingdom of God according to 1 Corinthians 6:9. Idolatry is listed among the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:20. And in 1 John 5:21, John says, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." Idolatry is explicitly forbidden under the New Covenant.

Between the Old Testament and the New, there isn't much room for one to practice idolatry. However, when people want to do something, they will think of all kinds of excuses, rationalities, and justifications. In the next article, we'll take a look at one major religion's "rationale" for what amounts to nothing more than idolatry.

Kevin Cauley

Not a Crown of Gold

It was not a crown of gold He wore,
When he went to Calvary;
But a crown of thorns that pierced His brow,
When he died for you and me.

It was not a crowd that praised His name,
When He hung there on that tree;
But a crowd that jeered and mocked and laughed,
When He died for you and me.

Would we not be as guilty then,
When we forget to show
The honor, praise and glory
For One who loved us so?



--Wilma Morris

Original Plan

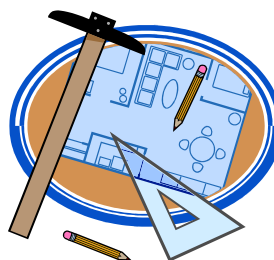
When we a purchase make of things,
Whether a table, lamp or chair,
We'd love to have the original,
If only the price was fair.

And even then sometimes we'll pay,
For something very nice,
We'll be so proud to own it,
We'll even pay the price.

But what a price our Savior paid,
When he suffered, bled and died,
He gave His life for His own church,
The church, His holy bride.

So when we read God's holy word,
Can we not understand,
The church for which our Savior died,
Was God's "original" plan?

--Wilma Morris



Bible Studies for the week of November 6th, 2005

- AM Sermon..... The Preacher's Greatest
- Scripture Reading..... Lamentations 2:11-19
- PM Sermon..... Good People Who Opposed God
- Scripture Reading..... Genesis 18:16-23
- Sunday ClassThe Book of Matthew
- Wednesday Class..... The Book of Zephaniah

Kevin's Korner

We managed to escape this week without having another major appliance go out in the house. (Whew!) For that we are very thankful. And by and large it was a more or less routine week.

The colors of the trees were at their peak this past week and we certainly did get to enjoy the beauty of God's creation in this part of the world. It seems like this year's colors have gone on longer than usual. Perhaps it has been because of the warmer temperatures that we have been having here which have been very pleasant and enjoyable.

You may be hearing my voice on the radio a little more often. This past week the extension homemaker's club asked me to do a radio spot for their annual holiday tasting. I was happy to do this. Also, due to my commercial work at the radio station,

we received quite a bit of advertising during the gospel meeting. I'm so thankful for that and for the wonderful attendance we had at our meeting. I didn't know exactly how much they had given us until I got their statement in the mail. They were quite generous.

Next Sunday evening I will be presenting my report for my recent trip to Brazil. I have a written report on the Internet at <http://www.randalmatheny.com/doku.php?id=brazil:cauley05>. You can go to that address and read the entire report as well as look at several pictures that I took along the way. I will also have some additional photos in the slides that I will present next Sunday evening. I hope that you will be able to come and hear about the work that was accomplished there.

You may have noticed that I have published some poetry on page

two of this bulletin. The poetry was written by our very own Wilma Morris. She has submitted several to me and there are yet more to come. I'm so glad that she wrote these poems. They are beautifully worded. I hope you enjoy them as much as I have and stayed tuned for more!

Now that daylight saving time is over, our evenings are a bit darker and our mornings brighter, but not for long! Soon that good old winter solstice is going to roll around. And, of course, that means we are now in the last two months of the year. Where did the time go? Yes, it is almost Thanksgiving and then (don't say it) Christmas! It is so good to enjoy the holiday season with our friends and family. Why not invite them to come to services with you sometime during the next couple of months? And bring on the snow!



Records for the week of October 30th, 2005

Sunday Bible Class	49
Sunday AM Worship.....	61
Sunday PM Worship.....	50
Wednesday Night Study.....	48
Contribution.....	\$1618.11
Budget.....	\$1662.00



Praises, Prayers, and Proclamations

Announcements

- We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!
- Please pray for the following: Vaughn Farmer, Bill Fort, Trish Foster, Opal Hull.
- If you can help Vaughn Farmer get back and forth to Fayetteville for his dialysis, please see Debbie Duncan.
- Our monthly men's breakfast will be this coming Saturday! Don't miss it!
- The monthly elders and deacons meeting is tonight after evening services.
- Our weekly Bible study at the nursing home will be Thursday afternoon at 2:00.
- Please check the copy room for the weekly outreach assignments.
- Please check the bulletin board for the new monthly assignments for November.
- Please check the bulletin board for several events that are happening in our area.
- Our pantry item is: Deodorizer.

God's Salvation Plan

1. **Hear** the Gospel—Romans 10:17
2. **Believe** on the Lord & His Word—Mark 16:16; John 8:24
3. **Repent** of your sins—Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
4. **Confess** Christ—Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9
5. **Be Baptized** for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27
6. Live a **faithful**, dedicated life—Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-10

Welcome!

Visit our web site: <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com>

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:20 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class:	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:	7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

November 6th, 2005 November 13th, 2005

Sunday Morning

Songs:	Ken Smith	Barrett Brown
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Michael Morrell	Bob Moore
Scripture Reading:	Ray Duncan	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Bruce Foster	John Gass
	Bob Moore	Glenn Quigley
(assist)	Jerry Roller	Bruce Foster
	Brandon Foster	Ray Duncan
Closing Prayer	Dan Hand	Ervin Hand

Sunday Evening

Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Bob Moore
Scripture Reading:	Brandon Foster	Rusty Windle
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	George Eddings
	Michael Morrell	Jack Gentry
Closing Prayer	Clay Bozarth	Glenn Quigley

Wednesday

Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Dale Pinkley
Invitation:	Ken Smith	Rusty Windle
Closing Prayer:	Ray Duncan	John Gass

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