

A Prayer to Keep Yourself from Idols

Psalm 115

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Incurvatus in se

Our sinful nature “fails to realize that it so wickedly, curvedly, and viciously seeks all things, even God, for its own sake.”

- Martin Luther

Is your heart
experiencing
conversion? (v. 1)

“There’s a certain sense in which we spend our entire lives thinking we’ve reached the bottom of our hearts and finding it a false bottom. Mature Christians are not people who have completely hit the bedrock. I do not believe that is possible in this life. Rather, they are people who know how to keep drilling and are getting closer and closer.”

- Tim Keller

Recognize the
contrast between the
one true God and all
the counterfeits. (vv.
2-8)

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have observed and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—that life was revealed, and we have seen it and we testify and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—what we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may also have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

- 1 John 1:1-4

Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

- 1 John 5:21

Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he appears, we will be like him because we will see him as he is. And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself just as he is pure.

- 1 John 3:2-3

An idol is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give. ...

An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart of hearts, “If I have that, then I’ll feel my life has meaning, then I’ll know I have value, then I’ll feel significant and secure.”

- Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*

How to keep yourself
from idols (vv. 9-18).

“If you uproot the idol and fail to ‘plant’ the love of Christ in its place, the idol will grow back.”

- Tim Keller

How can you believe, since you accept glory from one another but don't seek the glory that comes from the only God?

- John 5:44

“The glory of God is the jewel of the universe,
of which all else is but the setting.”

- Charles Spurgeon