

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



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Proverbs 28:25-26 A greedy man stirs up dissension, but he who trust in the Lord will prosper. He who trust in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

IDOLATRY

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Thanks again Father for another opportunity to share Your Divine message. May Your messages continue to fill us up with Your wisdom for today, and Your hope for tomorrow. May Your light continually shine bright in this dark and evil world. May Your message continue to give us awareness and understanding, regarding the sins of the world. May we all come to know You better, and try to please You more each day. Lord, may You continue to touch the hearts of Your people. with Your Light and Hope for a better tomorrow. Lord I ask this in the name of Your Son Jesus.....Amen.

Idolatry is a word used numerously in the Bible. The meaning of the word idolatry simply means, worshiper of idols. Even though it is a simple word with a simple meaning, it is a word that can produce devastating results. When I say it has devastating results, I mean it is one of the most deadly sins in the world. Why is it such a destructive sin? It is a destructive sin, for the fact that idolatry changes the way we look at God! After it manifest itself, we loose the ability to rely on the Lord for our source of strength, power, and understanding. We substitute temporary finite materialistic things to worship, in exchange for God's infinite eternal promises. The real problem is the fact that most people do not have the faith or the patience to wait for the Lords eternal promises. They would rather exchange a fleeting moment of passion and pleasure, in exchange for God's promise of Eternal Salvation.

As I sadly look around at this world of trouble and despair, I can see through the eyes of the Holy Spirit, that idolatry has taken control of the world. Unfortunately, it is a major sin we inherited, from the beginning of man's fall from grace. There has never been a time throughout biblical history, that idolatry wasn't a part of life.

It started out with our old friend and master of deception, Satan. God gave him out of all His creation, the highest power and authority ever known . As the Bible teaches us, with all the power he possessed, he then started to believe that he was higher and greater than the creator. He not only wanted other angels to worship him, he also thought he was God.. His pride, and lack of humility for God the creator of the universe, was the devil's fatal mistake. We as finite human beings, also seem to forget where we all come from. God warns us in His commandments, not to put any other gods before Him. Take a minute, and honestly reflect on all the things that you put in front of God? I have seen myself time after time, excited with different worldly idols, falling and slipping back into the worlds ways. The worlds ways are not God's ways, they never were and never will be. You see, the world is filled with so many false idols ! False idols come in all kinds of shapes and sizes! They can be movie stars, sport stars, musical stars, political stars. religious stars, money etc. I think you get the message. All through the old testament and the new testament, man has worshiped false idols. Every time throughout the Bible, when man strayed away from the worship of God and started to worship false gods in high places, God punished them severely. As God's

chosen people, the Jews were the best example of the punishment that comes from worshipping false idols. From the beginning of the book of Exodus when the Israelites cried out to God for deliverance from Pharaoh's bondage in Egypt, until the book of Deuteronomy, when Joshua took God's people across the Jordan and into the Promise Land, man's defiance of God's will, went on and on.

Funny thing, when you really take a close look at man's entire existence, they have always been in defiance and rebellion of God's will!! The reason why there is so much darkness and suffering in this world, is from man's stubborn heart. God is and always will continue to punish man for his sin and rebellion. I believe in my heart, that man will never truly understand God's will in this lifetime. Reason being, is man's continual defiance and rebellion of God's sovereign power. Man has forgotten the golden rule, He who makes the gold, makes the rules. God created the world, God makes the rules !! How can something so simple, be so hard for man to understand ???

Sometimes, I think we are all brain dead at times, when it comes to God's will. The Lord makes His will so clear and simple in the Bible, that a child can understand! Throughout time, man has always done whatever the world says, and his flesh desired. The Lord clearly said in 1 John 2:16-17 **For everything in the world- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does- comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and it's desires pass away, but man who does the will of God lives forever.**

This scripture is only one of the many scriptures, God makes available in the Bible, for us to spiritually feed on. When I say feed on, I mean that we all need daily spiritual food, in order to survive the daily lust and temptations that this world has to offer.

The works of the flesh can be found in Galatians 5:19-21, **Adultery, uncleanness, idolatry, hatred, jealousy, rivalries, selfish ambitions, murder, heresies, fornication, lewdness, sorcery, contentions, envy, outburst of wrath, dissension, drunkenness.**

I do believe that we all play an active part in the sins of this world. If you can honestly look at yourself and believe in your heart, that you have never been a part of the sins of the flesh and this world, than there really is not hope for you at this time. You see, we all need to take a good look within our souls, and try to identify all the sins that our flesh and the world are in control of at this time. Until we come to grips with these sins, we will always be powerless, from their devastating consequences. The other side of the coin is, once we ask God to come into our lives, he will help us defend ourselves from our flesh and this world. We will then, start to enjoy the fruits of the Spirit. The fruits of the Spirit are in Galatians 5: 22-23 **Love, peace, kindness, faithfulness, self-control, joy, longsuffering, goodness, and gentleness.**

In closing, a couple of things I would like to reiterate on, first being, the problem with idolatry is, the things that we idol in this world' are really so temporary and unfulfilling, when compared to the eternal benefits we all have in the Lord. Second, the works of the flesh, are dark and destructive, when compared to the Fruits of the Spirit! The only idolatry that is ok, is having idolatry for the Lord Jesus Christ!!!!

Let us pray. Dear Lord, my prayer at this time is for all the darkened souls of this world. May You lovingly touch the hearts and souls of the spiritually lost. May Your love overcome the hatred of the world. May we all grow in Your Eternal Wisdom!! Father I ask this in the name of Your Son, Christ Jesus.....Amen.

AUGUST'S EDITION OF HOPE FOR LIVING

Christ----Our Example By Billy Graham

Hebrews 5:8 He learned obedience by the things which He suffered

The main reason Jesus died on the cross was to save us from our sins. But the New Testament also stresses the importance of His suffering as an example for us. The Greek word for example comes from ancient school life, and refers to something written down by the teacher, so it could be followed and copied exactly by a child learning to write. Christ is our copy book. We look to Him as our teacher, and by His suffering He gave us an example to follow, so we can learn how suffering is to be borne. How did he bear it? By not giving in to despair or doubt. By looking beyond it and seeing the glory that was to come. By knowing the Father was with Him and would use His suffering for good. The same can be true for us.

SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK AND THE LOST SOULS

*Penny Howe-----Candice Kiana-----Russ Holman-----Joe Hinely---Eddie Hillman
Keith Rugerrio-----Janet Neil-----Carly Napolliello-----Janet Litiski-----Jerry Owens
Vince Philipelli-----Sherry Arzilla-----Robin Weiss----John Aqualino---Alice Mesmer
Nancy Flecker-----Susan Jean McHenry-----Felicia Rumbow-----Janine Smeltz*

Also, special prayers for all the sick, the hungry, the homeless, the helpless, the hopeless, The persecuted, the broken hearted, and for all the souls throughout the world.

A special prayer to end all the violence and corruption throughout the world.

Also, a prayer for our country's leadership, to come together as a whole, and stop all the silly political games. I ask all this, in Jesus name.....Amen.

Please note, all of us need plenty of prayers daily. So it is my hope at this time, that you will add this list of petitions to your daily prayer list.

To Get in touch with the Spiritual Connection for any prayer request, spiritual questions, spiritual needs or a free copy of the monthly journal, call the ministry office at (609) 704-8547 or e-mail us at ministry8246@comcast.net

Please note, the journal can be either mailed to you or e-mailed to your address.

Also, if you would like to spread the word of the Lord, e-mail God's word to a friend.

Until next month's journal, may we all live in God's love, and mercy for our fellow man. May we all spread the light to this dark world with the light of our Lord Jesus Christ.

