**Modern Idolatry**

*Acts 17:25, 29*

* Paul makes a strong point with His description of the true God that idolatry is silly.
* Most of us would not be tempted to worship a graven image. But that isn’t all idolatry truly is (cf. Colossians 3:5).

1. the god of money

* 1 Timothy 6:6-10
* Cannot serve two masters – Matt. 6:24;
  + **(Matthew 6:24),** *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”*
* Whenever material things take 1st place in our hearts & lives! – Matt. 6:21
  + **(Matthew 6:21),** *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*
  + 1 Tim. 6:17-19 READ
* **Instead, carry the priority of righteousness! (Mt. 6:33)**
  + **(Matthew 6:33),** *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”*

1. the god of human wisdom

* 1 Corinthians 1:17-21
* When “wisdom” of words (rhetoric) convinces us – 1 Cor. 2:1-5 READ, esp. 5
* When the “wisdom” of academia persuades us – Col. 2:8
  + **(Colossians 2:8),** *“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”*
* **Instead, carry the wisdom of God!** (Rom. 11:33-36) READ
  + After discussing the wisdom of God in saving both Jew and Gentile.

1. the god of human traditions

* Colossians 2:8
* **(Colossians 2:8),** *“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”*
* When things men hand down are & taught as commands of God – Matt. 15:7-9 (to the scribes and Pharisees)
  + **(Matthew 15:7-9),** *“Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ”*
* **Instead, Carry the divine traditions!** – 2 Ths. 2:15
  + **(2 Thessalonians 2:15),** *“Therefore brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.”*

1. the god of pleasure

* 2 Timothy 3:2-5, esp. 4
* **(2 Timothy 3:2-5),** READ
* When we take pleasure in unrighteousness and do not love the truth, we will be deceived – 2 Ths. 2:9-12
  + - Satan deceives us with the pleasures of sin. They are not better than the promises of God, and they are fading away (cf. 1 John 2:15-17).

1. the god of self

* 2 Timothy 3:2
* **(2 Timothy 3:2),** *“For men will be lovers of themselves…. “(5) having a form of godliness, but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”*
* When we refuse to sacrifice for Christ – Lk. 9:23-24
  + **(Luke 9:23-24), “***Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily,[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NKJV&search=Luke%209)*] and follow Me. 24For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”*
* When we refuse to be humble before God & man – Jas. 4:6-8
  + **(James 4:6-8),** “*But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” 7Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”*
* Instead, Carry self-denial & humility before God (see James 4:7-8, above)

**Conclusion**

Who will you serve? (cf. Joshua 24:15)