

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834
Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

July 12, 2026

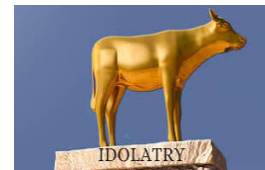
"Idols Are Among Us"

By Michael R. Baggett

"Little Children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen" (1 John 5:21 NKJV).

A three-year-old boy was coloring quietly during the sermon when the preacher used the word i-dol-a-try in his sermon. The little boy shouted out, "Did that preacher say something about a Dollar Tree?"

The word idolatry, idols, and variations of the word are found 131 times in the KJV. Another popular term for idols is images. This word is used first in reference to Rachel stealing her father's images (Genesis 31:19). The first commandment given to the Israelites is *"Thou shalt have no other gods before me, and the second is close to it: "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image"* (Exodus 20: 3-6).



What is an idol? Jesus left no room for idols when He stated the greatest commandment: *"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind"* (Matthew 22:37 NKJV). Think about what Jesus said. If we love Him with all our everything, nothing else can take His place! Anything that bumps God out of first place is an idol. We serve a jealous God who demands all our hearts ("Jealous God" is mentioned 10 times in KJV). God is our only God!

Why does man turn to idols? I believe Deuteronomy 4:15ff sums it up: *"Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on earth"*

Why would man be tempted to carve out an image? Men have always desired to have a face for God. Many cannot be satisfied with The God they cannot see. But we see evidence of Him every day in creation, right? Indeed. We must believe that He is. (Hebrew 11:6).

When God appeared in the fire of the burning bush, Moses asked God how he should answer when the people ask, *"What is His name? what shall I say to them?"* The LORD replied: *"I AM WHO I AM"* (Exodus 3:13-15). God is The Great I AM. God The Father is a spirit, not a flesh and blood visible Being. (John 4:24). We must accept Him as He is.

The fact is men have always felt the need to have something they can see and touch to worship. Even the Israelites had Aaron form a golden calf for worship when Moses was long in the Mountain talking with God. The Israelites said to Aaron, *"Make us a god to go before us"* (Exodus 32:1-2). They even gave credit to the golden calf for leading them out of bondage in Egypt! (Exodus 32:4).

Throughout the Bible we read about people worshiping the sun, moon, stars, a bronze serpent, the Baals, Ashtoreth, Dagon, Diana of the Ephesians and the list go on. Some had their own personal images like Micah's house idol in Judges chapter eighteen.

I once knew a lady who "talked the Bible" with me on breaks at work. This woman was very religious, but in grave error. She told me about a little statue of Mary she had in her house and how she bowed and prayed to it daily. Friends, this is idolatry plain and simple! Bowing to a statue, a 125-foot-tall cross or the pope is idolatry!

Do we have to bow down to an image to be guilty of idolatry? Too much adoration can create an idol. Idols are not always those we bow down to and pray. Going to work to make money to support your family is an expected thing for a husband/father (1 Timothy 5:8), but when "making a living" turns into the ambition to be rich, money takes on a new name -- Idolatry.

Remember what kept the rich young ruler from following Jesus? (Matthew 19:22). What caused the rich farmer to forget his duty to God and his neighbor, which cost him his soul that very night? (Luke 12:14-21).

Materialism is a major temptation for Christians in the twenty-first century. Apparently, the goal of many young families today is not only to make a living, but to compete with other families. Those who love silver will never be satisfied with silver. It is never enough! Says who? -- Solomon, the richest king who had so much gold that silver was counted as common as stones! (Ecclesiastes 5:10; 1st Kings 10:21, 27).

Life does not consist of the abundance of our possessions (Luke 12:15).

We should be thankful and content with what we have. Husbands be thankful for your wife who are willing to do with less to raise children, rather than sacrificing them to the god of materialism (Titus 2: 3-5).

What about gambling? Some do not believe gambling is a sin! But gambling destroys many lives. Why gamble? The love of money! We know what the Bible says about the love of money, don't we? (1 Timothy 6:8-11). Being rich is not the sin; the desire to be rich is!

"Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (Colossians 3:5 NKJV).

Covetousness is defined as "Greediness...the desire to want more" (Strongs Concordance). The Bible says covetousness is idolatry.

Can we make idols out of everyday people, places or things? Since idolatry is adoring some person, place or thing more than God, anything can become an idol! Political figures, movies stars, entertainers, iPhone and sports can become modern idols. Consider: When one chooses to go to see the "Chiefs play the Cowboys" instead of attending worship, football just took Jesus' seat!

Always keep God first in your life. Keep yourselves away from idols. Do you know Jesus?

"A Closed Bible Is A Closed Mind"

By Brian Meade

Have you ever had the experience of attempting to study with someone who would not even open their Bible with you to the text? Maybe it was just their habit not to look for themselves, or it could be worse— they already had their mind made up about what the Bible teaches on that subject.

It can be very frustrating to try to get them to open their Bible when they say things like, "I've studied the Bible all my life, and I already know what God wants me to know about that." That happened to me on one occasion about the subject of Bible authority, and what the church can and cannot do in its work. The person shut down the study by saying they had studied that subject enough, closed their Bible, and left the study.

It could also be that some simply don't want to try to defend practices that are extra-Biblical in the first place, and they know they can't. So that's when it is easier to just walk away than give a defense for we believe is right.

But Peter says, *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear,"* (1 Peter 3:15).

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, LuAnne Parrish, Billie Grisham, B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Stacy & Annette Meeks, Anita Harris' mother: Hillard Switcher, Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), Evelyn Trimble, Danny Briggs (cancer), Kelcy Whittemore, Cameron Hutchins, the McCarthy family in Baldwin (two men have cancer, one is terminal), Karen Kennemur, Dianne Johnson, Randy Ferrell (diagnosed with Parkinson's disease), & Greg Fields (Brandi Meade's uncle with Pancreatic cancer).

Updates: Billie Grisham is in Dogwood Assisted Living, here in Corinth.

Sherry Fuqua Doles is in the Hospital at Magnolia.

LuAnne Parrish is home now, and doing some better.

Tim Harris Sr. had back surgery and is recovering.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:

Tim Harris Sr.

Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon #1: *"From Sinai To Zion: Why Christians Worship On Sunday" Pt. 1*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Fred Johnson

Workbook:

Passing The Torch

Author:

Mike Willis

Starting Page & Question:

Page 38, Question #3b

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:

Blake Briggs

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:

Russell briggs

Scripture Reading:

Psalms 4:1-4

Song Leader:

Paul Busby

Lord's Supper:

Jerry Kennemur

Assisting:

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Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon #2:

"A Psalm For Sleepless Nights: Psalm 4"

Closing Prayer:

Blake Briggs

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.

July 15, 2026

Auditorium Bible Class:

Paul Busby

Workbook:

The Book Of Mark

Author:

By Mike Willis

Starting Page & Question:

Page #71, Question #23

Invitation:

Brian Meade

Song Leader:

Tim Harris Sr.

Closing Prayer:

Blake Briggs

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And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“From Sinai To Zion: Why Christians Worship On Sunday” Pt. 1

Lesson Text: **Hebrews 12:18-22.**

I. Jesus Came To Fulfill The Old Law.

- **Matthew 5:17-18.**
 - What Began At Mt. Sinai Would Be Fulfilled In Jerusalem At The Cross Of Calvary.
 - Not That Moses Failed Or The Law Did Not Serve Its Purpose, They Did Their Mission.
 - **Luke 16:16; Galatians 3:19; 3:24-25.** Key Word: “Until.”
- Jesus Fulfilled What God Began With Moses:
 - **Deuteronomy 18:18-19.** Moses Was To “*Pass The Torch.*”
 - **Hebrews 3:5-6.**
 - **Matthew 17:1-5.**
- **Luke 24:44-48,** What Began At Mt. Sinai Would Be Fulfilled In Jerusalem At The Cross Of Calvary.

II. God Promised A New Covenant.

- It Was God’s Purpose All Along To Establish Another Covenant For Jews & Gentiles.
 - **Ephesians 3:9-11.**
- **Jeremiah 31:31-34** Is Not An Afterthought, But What God Announced Centuries Earlier.
 - Key Word: “*Not According To...*” To What? The Covenant From Mt. Sinai.
- **Hebrews 8:6-13,** Shows The Old Covenant Would Be Replaced By A Better Covenant.
- **Hebrews 10:1-10,** Explains That Animal Sacrifices Could Never Fully Take Away Sin.
- **Luke 22:20,** Jesus Would Establish The New Covenant By His Blood. **Matthew 26:28.**
- From Sinai To Zion:

Sinai	Zion
Moses, the Servant (<i>Heb. 3:5</i>)	Christ, the Son (<i>Heb. 3:6</i>)
Old Covenant (<i>Ex. 24</i>)	New Covenant (<i>Heb. 8</i>)
Israel (<i>Ex. 19</i>)	All Nations (<i>Matt. 28:19</i>)
Stone Tablets (<i>Ex. 31:18</i>)	Hearts (<i>Jer. 31:33</i>)
Levitical Priesthood (<i>Heb. 7:11</i>)	Jesus, Our High Priest (<i>Heb. 7:24–28</i>)
Animal Sacrifices (<i>Heb. 10:1–4</i>)	Christ's Once-for-All Sacrifice (<i>Heb. 10:10–14</i>)
Shadows (<i>Col. 2:16–17</i>)	Fulfillment (<i>Matt. 5:17</i>)
Temporary (<i>Heb. 8:13</i>)	Eternal (<i>Heb. 13:20</i>)

III. We Have Come To Mt. Zion.

- Isaiah Saw It Coming.
 - **Isaiah 2:2-3.**
- Hebrews Says It Has Arrived.
 - **Hebrews 12:22-25.**

"A Psalm For Sleepless Nights"

Lesson Text: **Psalm 4:1-8.**

I. Remember God's Faithfulness.

- **Psalm 4:1**, *"Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer."*
- David Doesn't Begin By Talking About His Problems, He Begins By Talking to God.
- David Remembered His Past Deliverances:
 - 1. **1 Samuel 17:37.**
- We Often Can Forget What God Has Already Done.
- **Remember Our:** Deliverance For Troublesome Situations, Help That Came In Times Of Dire Circumstances, & Answers We Struggled To Find Without God's Help.
- We Can All Say With David, *"...Be gracious to me and hear my prayer."* **(NASB).**

II. Leave Your Reputation In God's Hands.

- **Psalm 4:2**, *"How long, O you sons of men, Will you turn my glory to shame? How long will you love worthlessness And seek falsehood?"*
- People Around Him Were Lying, Criticizing, Slandering, & Were Out To Destroy David.
- David Refuses To Fight For His Reputation, But Simply Leaves It To God.
- **Psalm 4:3**, *"But know that the Lord has set apart for Himself him who is godly; The LORD will hear when I call to Him."*
 - Jesus Was Also Accused Falsely, and What Did He Do? Answer: **1 Peter 2:23.**
- Sometimes We Lose Sleep Because We Are Trying To Control What Only God Can Control.
 - You Can't Control What Other Will Do, But You Don't Have To Lose Sleep Over It!

III. Let Your Heart Trust In God.

- **Psalm 4:4-5**, *"Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, And put your trust in the Lord."*
- Times When Others Try To Hurt Us, Do We Act On Our Own Or Let God Lead Us?
- It Is Easy To Sit In Our Bed And Think Of Ways To Retaliate, But Should We?
 - It Is Not Wrong To Be Upset Over Unfairness & Injustices Done Against Us, But How We Handle That Type Of Anger Without Sinning Matters!
 - Paul Uses This In **Ephesians 4:26**, and Goes Farther By **Verse 27.**
 - Notice That David Says, *"Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still."*

IV. We Find Joy In Being Rich In God.

- **Psalm 4:6-7**, *"There are many who say, 'Who will show us any good?' Lord, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us. You have put gladness in my heart, More than in the season that their grain and wine increased."*
- We Need To Find Our Joy In God, Not In The Things Of The Earth- **Colossians 3:2.**
- **Luke 12:19-21**, The Rich Farmer Had Joy because of His Crops, But He Was Not Rich Toward God.
 - Where Your Affections are, There Is Your Joy.
- **Matthew 6:19-21.** The World Can steal your joy when they take your possessions away.
 - Do we lose sleep over lost possessions that we only have temporarily to begin with?

V. Rest In God's Protection.

- **Psalm 4:8**, *"I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety."*
- Jesus Can Give Us True Peace. **John 14:27.**
- **Philippians 4:6**, *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."*