

You Turned

1 Thessalonians 1:9b

The Power of God's Word (1:5a)

The Testimony of God's Word (1:5b; 2:1-12)

The Effect of God's Word (1:9b-10)

The Progress of God's Word (1:6-9a)

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

"...and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God"

1.) What Did They Turn From? Idols

A.) An Image Made by Human Hands

"And there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone..." (Deuteronomy 4:28)

"For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. 4 They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple. They are upright, like a palm tree, And they cannot speak..." (Jeremiah 10:3-5)

"Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands." (Acts 19:26)

B.) A Delusion Made by Human Imagination

"Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; Every metalsmith is put to shame by an image; For his molded image is falsehood, And there is no breath in them. 15 They are futile, a work of errors..." (Jeremiah 10:14-15)

“Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things...25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen” (Romans 1:22-23, 25)

C.) Delusions Given by Demonic Influence

“What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? 20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.” (1 Corinthians 10:19-20)

“They are upright, like a palm tree, And they cannot speak; They must be carried, Because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, For they cannot do evil, Nor can they do any good.” (Jeremiah 10:5)

“...They have no knowledge, Who carry the wood of their carved image, And pray to a god that cannot save.” (Isaiah 45:20)

Application: How Do I know if I am Guilty of Idol Worship?

Two Sets of Two Questions:

i.) What Do You Serve? What Do You Trust?

ii.) What Am I Attempting to Build With My Own Hands? What is a Possible Delusion of My Imagination?

“Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it” (Psalm 127:1)

Two Exhortations:

i.) Pray

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24)

ii.) Flee

"Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry." (1 Corinthians 10:14)

2.) Who Did They Turn To? God

"Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness. 12 And the Lord spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice...Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the Lord spoke to you..." (Deuteronomy 4:11-12, 15)

A.) God is an Eternal Spirit who Transcends Creation

B.) Human Beings are the Only Sanctioned Image of God

C.) God Has Made Himself Known in His Word

"I am the Lord, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me..." (Isaiah 45:5).

"Assemble yourselves and come; Draw near together, You who have escaped from the nations. They have no knowledge, Who carry the wood of their carved image, And pray to a god that cannot save. 21 Tell and bring forth your case Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the Lord? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me. Look to Me, and

be saved All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. 23 I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath" (Isaiah 45:20-23)

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

"Silver is beaten into plates; It is brought from Tarshish, And gold from Uphaz, The work of the craftsman And of the hands of the metalsmith... But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King." (Jeremiah 10:9)

3.) Turning From Idols to God Is Christian Conversion

"...you should turn from these useless things to the living God..." (Acts 14:15).

"...the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: 24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things...these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent," (Acts 17:23-25, 30)

"There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.... There is none who does good, no, not one." (Romans 3:10-12)

"the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person," (Hebrews 1:3).

"choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15)