



THE MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

February 11, 2024

Our Next Gospel Meeting

March 3-8, 2024

Weekly Bible Studies

Thursday at 1:15 on Zoom

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

March 1

Address and Contact

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MODERN IDOLATRY

God said, *I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off from this place the remnant of Baal and the name of the idolatrous priests along with the priests, those who bow down on the roofs to the host of the heavens, those who bow down and swear to the Lord and yet swear by Milcom, those who have turned back from following the Lord, who do not seek the Lord or inquire of him.* (Zeph. 1:4-6) Milcom was probably one of the gods of the Ammonites. The people had no problem honoring him *and* God. Perhaps they praised their own broad-mindedness. Yet far from honoring “the gods” equally, they were dishonoring the only true and living God by elevating the work of human hands to a place that is His alone.

Such syncretism has been a problem for man from the beginning. Even so, it is difficult for us to see it as a continuing problem because the idolatry described in Scripture is often so foreign to our experiences. We’ve never seen an Asherah grove or Baal statue except in books.

Yet there are two forms of idolatry just as prevalent today. The first is man worshipping man. This is the first form of idolatry we see. Eve chose her desire over God’s because *she saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise.* (Genesis 3:6) Adam got on board and they proceeded to honor themselves above God.

Nothing has changed. Long before the Humanist Manifesto was written or revised, humanism was alive and well. The first form of idolatry continues to be the most prevalent. It

Members Needing Our Prayers

Jill Harrison, Joyce Bolton, Rick Small, Benny and Arlena Poynter, Janett Brundige, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayer

Barbara Conley, Maurice Baker, Jeff Padgett, John Thompson, Georgia Patton, Glenda Miller, Alyse Nash, Patty Hill, Janice Parsons, Mark Nickles, Paul and Marrian Lyda

To Our Guests

Interested in a Bible study? Either let one of us know or mark it on your visitor card.

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manifests whenever people choose to give God's honor to the reflection in the mirror. May we be holier than that.

The second form of idolatry is nearly as ancient and still common. It is the reimagining of God into an easier to digest package. There isn't much difference between this and the first for the reimagined "God" is designed to be more palatable to sinful people. In fact, he looks a lot like them. (Psalm 50:21)

Reimagined "God" is often a grandfatherly type who finds no greater joy than in affirming the decisions people make. He'll use words like holiness, sin, wrath, judgement, and hell, but don't be bothered by it; he really doesn't mean much by them. If it makes people happy, it makes him happy. This may be the extreme end of reimagining, but anything less or more than what God has revealed of himself is not God. May we be humbler than that.

Let us choose the true and living God. Let us serve Him in love and trust. When we rejoice in him, he rejoices in us. What could be better?
Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
Adam Litmer	Marcus Lake	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	James Weatherholt	

