

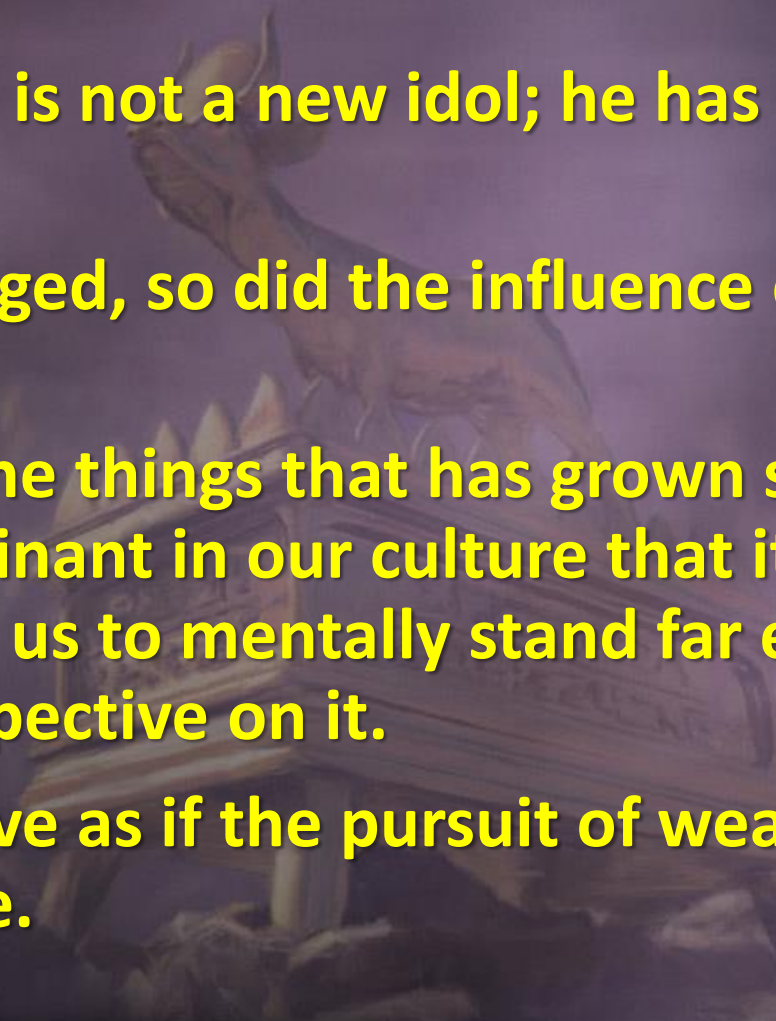
For The Love of Money

Luke 12:8-19, Ephesians 5:15, Ephesians 5:10



The God of Money

- The god of money is not a new idol; he has always been around.
- As the world changed, so did the influence of the god of money.
- Money is one of the things that has grown so unbelievably dominant in our culture that it is difficult for any of us to mentally stand far enough back to get a perspective on it.
- Many times, we live as if the pursuit of wealth is the real goal in life.



Settling the Dispute

- God, in His infinite wisdom, included a law against coveting others in the Ten Commandments.
- When we covet what someone else has, we want for ourselves what God in His wisdom has graciously given to someone else.
- Money is not the problem; it is the love of money that is the issue.
- Money holds a vast amount of potential to become a substitute for God.
- During the Sermon on the Mount, the only mention of idolatry is in relation to money.
- We too easily let our emotions become controlled by our bank accounts.

The Parable of the Rich Fool

- One of the first words we, and many children learn is “mine.”
- The key to keeping money in its place is to dethrone it by keeping it in perspective; everything belongs to God.
- God has given us the use of His resources for just a minute’s span of time while we are here on earth.
- When we start to see the things that we have in this life as God's resources, it helps to dethrone the love of money, and instill an attitude of gratitude.

Divine Attributes

- The reason idols end up taking the throne is because of the promises they make that we subsequently believe.
- There are three divine attributes in the Parable of the Rich Fool that he seeks to find in his money that only God truly provides:
 - He views his wealth as the source of his security.
 - He views his wealth as his primary and ultimate source of satisfaction in life.
 - He views his wealth as the primary source of significance in his life.
- Idols are good things elevated to an ultimate position in our lives.
- When our significance is found in Jesus and Him alone, it does not get any better than that.

Conclusion

- The lie that Satan would have you believe first and foremost is that your significance in life comes from what you're able to make of yourself.
- The world teaches us to measure ourselves and others by our bank accounts.
- What makes us more valuable than anything we could ever purchase, more valuable than anything we could ever earn, was determined when Jesus died for us on the cross.
- Do not let the symbol of our worship be a dollar sign when it should be a cross.