

## 5A. \_\_\_\_\_ IN OUR HEART HINDERS OUR PRAYER.

- Understand that Idolatry makes God your \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exodus 20:1-6** And God spake all these words, saying, <sup>2</sup> I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. <sup>3</sup> Thou shalt have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup> Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness *of any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth: <sup>5</sup> Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that **hate** me; <sup>6</sup> And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

KEY: To reject God for any other is to **hate** Him.

- Idolatry hinders our prayers to God.

**Ezekiel 14:1-11** Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me. <sup>2</sup> And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, <sup>3</sup> Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them? <sup>4</sup> Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; <sup>5</sup> That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. <sup>6</sup> Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn *yourselves* from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations. <sup>7</sup> For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself: <sup>8</sup> And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD. <sup>9</sup> And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the LORD have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel. <sup>10</sup> And they shall bear the punishment of their iniquity: the punishment of the prophet shall be even as the punishment of him that seeketh *unto him*; <sup>11</sup> That the house of Israel may go no more astray from me, neither be polluted any more with all their transgressions; but that they may be my people, and I may be their God, saith the Lord GOD.

**Proverbs 26:4-5** Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. <sup>5</sup> Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

*BEWARE: God can give you what you want in rebellion. It will be to your own discipline.*

## 5B. \_\_\_\_\_ IS IDOLATRY; AND IT HINDERS OUR PRAYER.

- The problem biblically.

### ***Instruction:***

**1 Timothy 6:6-11** But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. <sup>8</sup> And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

### ***Warning:***

<sup>9</sup> But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts,

which drown men in destruction and perdition. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some **coveted** after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. <sup>11</sup> But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Exodus 20:1-5. The love of money \_\_\_\_\_ the first commandment!  
**Colossians 3:5; Ephesians 5:5**

Lust for what God hasn't giving you is COVETOUSNESS = idolatry.

COVETOUSNESS IS A \_\_\_\_\_ THAT \_\_\_\_\_ UP \_\_\_\_\_ FOR THE BELIEVER!

**Malachi 3:7-9** Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept *them*. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? <sup>8</sup> Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation.

- COVETOUSNESS and its \_\_\_\_\_ to HONOR God \_\_\_\_\_ puts God's people under a \_\_\_\_\_!

*"Stealing, God-robbing, covetousness is the same wicked sin in New Testament times as it was in Old Testament times. And those who sing, "Oh, How I Love Jesus," but do not love Him a dime's worth out of a dollar will not get far in their praying." - John R. Rice*

**Psalms 50:10-12** For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. <sup>11</sup> I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. <sup>12</sup> If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.

- God does not care so much about your money, but He wants \_\_\_\_\_.
- God's promise of blessing to those that place Him first.

**Malachi 3:10-12** Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*. <sup>11</sup> And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. <sup>12</sup> And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

What do you love MORE than God? Let's give that up to God.