

The April CFAMC Devotional Page

Spring has sprung, and the famous month for fools has 90 minutes left as I write this. That said, there is something to watch out for lest we become fools in any month. Check out Psalm 115:1-8!

Psalm 115:1-8

1. Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.
2. Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is now their God?
3. But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.
4. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.
5. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not:
6. They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not:
7. They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat.
8. They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.

Psalm 115 is a large contrast between the worshipers of God and the worshipers of idols; specifically between the nation of Israel and all the nations around them. But the history of Israel – and of every country since Christianity has forced a choice – shows a conflict and contrast within societies between those that worship God and those that worship something or someone else.

I was reading through Psalm 115 earlier this month, and verse 8 really struck me: “They that make them [idols] are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.” I thought, “Oh.... we become like who or what we worship.” That should give us all big pause... we may do the regular Sunday things, but really, in the other six days of the week, what are we like, and what does that tell us about our true worship habits?

Okay, so maybe we don't build idols of silver or gold – but we do have copper, nickel, silver, and green money. Most of us are still out there every day earning money, and there's nothing wrong with that. But consider this: money has no more moral quality than the person using it; it can be used for good or bad. It exists only to be traded for other things and – if you understand the laws of compound interest – to be aggregated and multiplied over LONG periods of time. Suppose we began to worship money, to become totally enamored with having it, using it, piling it up, and watching it grow in our account. The recent behavior of folks on Wall Street suggests that we too might stop caring whether we did good or bad to lots and lots of people, just so long as the maximum amount of money kept flowing in our direction. Money is amoral: if we worship it, we will become the same way. And, in God's economy, amoral is just another form of immoral: “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,” He warned us in I Timothy 6:10.

What if we worshiped our possessions – a favorite car, our outfits, our collections? I'm not suggesting any of us would bow down to our things, but have you ever known someone who was just obsessed

with some item to the point that they were nothing more than a walking, talking advertisement for whatever it is? Nearly every other area of their brain appears to have gone out of commission – they can eat, drink, reproduce, and deal with Thing X, and that's it. Hence, Psalm 115:8 again: “They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.”

What if we worshiped some other human being – or ourselves? In that case we would become no better than those human beings, and just in case we love someone or ourselves just enough to kiss the ground we walk on, here is God's opinion of our humanity:

Psalm 14:3 – They are all gone aside; they are all together become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

In case we missed the point ...

Psalm 53:3 – They are all gone back; they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

And, just in case, our Three-in-One God has the trifacta going...

Romans 3:14 – They are all gone out of the way; they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

So, here's the deal: if you are worshiping yourself or any other human being – if you are living just please yourself or the people around you – you are going to be manifesting Psalm 14:3, Psalm 53:3, and Romans 3:14. Kinda scary, isn't it?

There is tremendous risk in worshiping anybody or anything beside the true and living God, as I believe the above examples demonstrate! God be praised, He has made provision so that we do not have to be fools in any month; in Christ, we can worship Him!

John 4:23-24

23. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

In truth... that means we can't turn it on and off when entering or leaving the church doors. Truth does not change based on our location; the truth is that God is holy, righteous, pure, almighty, all-knowing, and all-present; Creator, Sustainer, and Heir to the universe, Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Ancient of Days, the Lord of Hosts, our Savior, Lord, and Christ, the Faithful and True, the Prince of Peace, and coming King. No matter how we feel, that is truth, and the only proper response to that constant truth is consistent worship. Now we can't do this on our own, which is why God gave us His Holy Spirit... but guess what? While filled and empowered by the Spirit to worship and serve God, God shares aspects of His character with us!

Galatians 5:22-23

22. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23. Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Again, we will become like what we worship, according to Psalm 115:8 – who or what do we want to be like? We would be absolute fools, in April or any other month, to ignore God's will that we worship Him and share in the glorious aspects of his character that He has given us to manifest in Christ by His Spirit! So, let's all watch our worship as the year rolls on – let's make absolutely sure that we continue in true worship of our great, awesome, loving God, and NOTHING else!