



THE MESSENGER

MARCH 14, 2021

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

This afternoon

Weekly Bible Studies

All temporarily being conducted via Zoom. Check our “friends” page on Facebook for more information.

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

On hold

Address and Contact

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MODERN RELIGIOUS SYNCRETISM

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 outside of pictures in books. And even if we did, what modern American would ever bow to it?

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) Who was God to forbid something so desirable? How could He withhold something she really wanted? 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 prominent. It was the first form of religious syncretism and manifests itself whenever man chooses to

Members Needing Our Prayers

Janet Brundige, Julie Patton,
Jackie Litmer, Joyce Bolton,
Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd,
Cindy Bradbury, Paul
Atkisson, Rhonda Boyd (and
family)

Others Needing Prayers

Mark Nickles, Dale Lyons,
Adam Fusco, Rachel and
Sarah White, Duane Harrod,
Grace Meyer, Andy Seabolt,
Meredith Nicholson, Alice and
Lonnie Anderson, Glen
Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry
Daniels, Harvey Baker, Leroy
Weatherholt, Robert
Brundige, John Blessing,
William Roberts, Paul and
Marrian Lyda, Dana and her
children, Shane (a relative of
Cindi), Ron Harmon

To Our Guests

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

Visit us on Facebook,
YouTube, or our website to
watch or listen to sermons.

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 quite prevalent. 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 always 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; he really doesn't mean much by them. If it makes us 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	
John Thompson	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

