That Which Belongs To God Alone

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday January 14th, 2018

Text: Jer. 8:2

### Intro

1. Jer. 8:1-2
	1. God’s charge against the people is they have given their devotions to idols, in that they:
		1. Loved, served, walked after, sought, and worshiped false gods.
	2. Devotions that belong to God alone!
2. People can devote the same to things other than God and commit idolatry today.
	1. Hawaii: An example of idolatry alive and well in modern times.
		1. For two weeks (2010), we were immersed in their history, mythology, and lore.
		2. Only, their mythology wasn’t a thing of the past, but a live religion!
		3. Told by a Park Ranger at the Place of Refuge that sacrifices were made regularly, and the park had to be cleaned of them often.
	2. Col. 3:5: While some may not actually serve idols, there are things in our lives that can “amount to idolatry.”
		1. “Evil desire, and greed” are acts of selfishness – We sin because we want to! *(James 1:14-15)*
3. Let us not devote to other things that which belong to God alone!

#### Love

* 1. Jer. 8:2: The people “loved” false gods, “all the host of heaven.”
	2. Mk. 12:29-30: Jesus said man is to: Love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength
		1. We are to give God our love!
		2. I Jn. 5:1-4: We show God our love by “keeping His commandments.”
	3. Our love is demonstrated by obedience! (Rom. 6:16)
		1. We will either demonstrate our love (obedience) to that which is false, resulting in sin, or to God, resulting in righteousness – Rom. 6:16
		2. But we will be obedient to something in life, and we need to make sure our love is given to God!
	4. Our love belongs to God alone if we want to live eternally with Him!

#### Serve

* 1. Jer. 8:2: The people “served” false gods, “all the host of heaven.”
		1. Rom. 1:25: Idolatrous people serve “the creature rather than the Creator” *(Is. 44:9-20).*
	2. Mt. 4:10: Jesus told Satan, “You shall worship God and serve Him only!” *(Deut. 6:13)*
		1. Jn. 12:26: To serve God one must Follow Christ.
		2. To follow Christ (Christian) one must walk after His pattern, to obey His word.
		3. I Pet. 4:11: One must speak as God speaks, and serve with the strength God supplies *(Phil. 4:13).*
		4. Col. 3:23-24: When we follow Christ we serve Christ!
	3. We will serve someone/thing in this life (Mt. 6:24; Rom. 6:16); we must choose God!
		1. Paul chose God and became His servant – *Acts 24:14-15; 27:23; Rom. 1:9-10; II Tim. 1:3:* Paul says of himself: “I serve God” (“God, Whom I serve”)
	4. We will serve whom we love; if we love God our service belongs to Him alone!

#### “Go After” (NKJV: “After which they have walked”)

* 1. Jer. 8:2: The people had “gone after” false gods, “all the host of heaven.”
		1. Phil. 3:18-19: Many walk as “enemies of the cross of Christ.”
	2. Eph. 2:10: God created us for good works that “we would walk in them.”
		1. To “go after” or “walk after” follows that which we love and serve.
		2. We will “walk after” or obey that which we serve! (Manner of life)
		3. Eph. 5:1-4: Saints are to “walk in” love, “as is proper among saints.”
		4. Col. 1:9-12: “Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.”
		5. I Jn. 2:4-6: We need to “walk in the same manner as He walked.”
	3. We are not to “go after” other things, but are to “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord!”

#### Seek

* 1. Jer. 8:2: The people “sought” false gods, “all the host of heaven.”
	2. Mt. 6:33: Jesus said, “Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.”
		1. Col. 3:1-3: “Keep seeking the things above, where Christ is.”
		2. Acts 17:24-28: God created mankind so that “they would seek God.”
		3. Heb. 11:6: God rewards those who seek Him!
	3. We seek out the things we love and enjoy.
		1. Israel had “sought” after false gods.
		2. What do you seek after?
	4. We ought to seek after the only One, by which we can be saved! *(Acts 4:12)*

#### Worship

* 1. Jer. 8:2: The people “worshiped” false gods, “all the host of heaven.”
		1. Rom. 1:25: Idolatrous people worship “the creature rather than the Creator.”
		2. Acts 17:16, 23: Paul observed the various objects of “devotion” (KJV) or “worship” (NASB) in Athens and it troubled him; so he preached to them about God.
	2. Serving and worship go together!
	3. Mt. 4:8-10: Jesus told Satan, “You shall worship God and serve Him only!”
		1. Jn. 4:23-24: “True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.”
		2. Phil. 3:2-3: “True circumcision” refers to the spiritual people of God, and he says we “worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus.”
		3. Rom. 12:1: The way we live our lives is our “spiritual service of worship.”
	4. God is to be praised and worshiped, and He alone!
1. *II Kings 19:15-19:* King Hezekiah acknowledged God as the only true God, and the Creator of heaven and earth! *(And false gods are created by man!)*
2. *Is. 44:9-20:* The folly of idolatry: man cuts wood, burns half for warmth and makes an idol out of the rest and bows down and prays to it!
3. *Neh. 9:5-6:* It is to God alone “the heavenly host bows down.”
4. *Lk. 19:37-40:* Jesus said of the multitude praising Him at His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, “If these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.”
	1. Our praise, adoration, and worship belong to God, the Creator, alone!

## Conclusion

1. Israel was guilty of devoting to idols that which belongs to God alone! (Jer. 8:2)
2. People today can be just as guilty – Col. 3:5
	1. If not to God, our love, service, manner of life, what we seek after and worship will be to other things, and we will stand condemned *(Rom. 6:16; Phil. 3:18-19).*
3. The good news is: Man can change, can repent and serve the only living God! (Mark 12:30)
	1. I Thess. 1:9: The Thessalonians turned from idolatry to serve God.
	2. Rom. 6:4: At baptism the new convert begins to “walk in newness of life.”
4. Let us devote to God that which belongs to Him alone:
	1. Our love, service, manner of life, our seeking after, and worship!
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
6. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!