
BIBLE TALK

Welcome to "Bible Talk." I would encourage you to listen all the way to the end of this message to hear some important announcements which we have.

This week we are discussing this question: **Is God your god?**

Jesus said in:

Luke 16:13

13 "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

According to this, the "god" of a man's life is the "master" of his life. The "master" is the one whom one loves and obeys before anything else.

In America, we are beginning to see people who openly worship other gods beside the one God in heaven.

- In Riverdale there is a **Buddhist** temple where people worship Buddha rather than God.
- In Morrow there is a "Kingdom Hall" where the **Jehovah's Witnesses** worship a different god than the God in heaven.
- In Jonesboro there is a Mormon church where the **Mormons** worship a plurality of gods – all different than the one God in Heaven.

Many of us are concerned about the worship of other gods in our community, but before we criticize others too severely, let us ask the question, "**Is God your god?**" Is it possible that we too could be following a master other than the one God revealed in the holy scriptures?

COVETOUSNESS

For example, what about the god that folds up inside a billfold and hides in a coin purse? A “god” is a master – a master that one loves and obeys above all others. Is money your “god”? Ask yourself some questions:

Will you miss worship services dedicated to the God in heaven in order to earn more money? If you say, “I have to work or else they will fire me,” then what you’re saying is, your supreme master is your job – money. You are serving money and material possessions. You think possessions are the most important thing in life and you serve that as your god rather than the God up in heaven.

Ephesians 5:5

5 For this you know, that no ... **covetous man, who is an idolater**, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Colossians 3:5

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and **covetousness, which is idolatry**.

Luke 12:15

15 [Jesus] said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Listen to this and, as Jesus said, “Beware of covetousness.” The Chic-Fil-A restaurant is an outstanding example of the fact that a business does not have to open on Sundays to be successful. When men and women work on Sundays to make money and in the process neglect worship to the God of heaven, they are serving another god – they are serving the god mammon (or wealth). That god will not give you eternal life at the end of time. Beware of that!

FALSE DOCTRINE

What about other gods – gods who do not require as much as the one true God up in heaven?

First, we are being told there is:

- **A “god” who does not require baptism for salvation.** Billy Graham and other evangelists are teaching that there is a “god” who will allow you to simply believe in Jesus and say a prayer and you can be saved. Are you serving that “god”? If you are, you’re serving a different “god” than the God of the Bible. The God of the Bible does not listen to the prayers of sinners (Jn. 9:30). The God of the Bible will not accept “faith only” from men (Ja. 2:24). The God of the Bible requires that men be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Second, we are being told there is:

- **A “god” who will not hold you accountable once you become saved.** Billy Graham and other evangelists are teaching that once you’re saved, you will always be saved – that you can never sin so as to be lost again. Are you serving that “god”? If you are, you’re serving a different “god” than the God of the Bible. The God of the Bible teaches that you need to beware lest you fall (1 Cor. 10:12). The God of the Bible teaches that when men fall away, they are in a worse condition than before they began (2 Pet. 2:20-22).

Again, we are being told there is:

- **A “god” who will allow you to choose your own church** – a church that is suitable and pleasing to you. Billy Graham and other evangelists are teaching that once you get saved by the “god” that does not require baptism, you don’t have to be a member of any church. However, Graham and others do encourage people to seek out and find a church that will suit each person. Are you serving that “god”? If you are, you’re serving a different “god” than the God of the Bible. The God of the Bible teaches there is only one church (Mt. 16:18) and we do not have a choice of how to worship. The God of the Bible requires a cappella singing (Eph. 5:19). The God of the Bible requires weekly communion (Acts 20:7) with one unleavened loaf (1 Cor. 10:17) and one cup for the fruit of the vine (Mt. 26:27). The God of the Bible requires that men stay faithful in the one church which His Son died for (Acts 20:28) and faithfully follow all that was commanded (Mt. 28:20).

In other words, the God of the Bible requires that men obey what He said. The God of the Bible insists that He is the Master and that He is the one in control. He does not consult with man first to see if man will be happy and pleased with His commands. He issues the commands and we must simply do what He says.

My friend, what “god” is your “god”? Are you serving the God of the Bible, or are you only doing what you want to do? If you want the God of the Bible to save you, you have to do what He says in everything.

Matthew 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but **he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**

22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our web site www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.