



“Ephraim is joined to his idols; let him alone.” Hosea 4:17

You become like that thing or god which you worship! It is an astounding revelation but it is truth! “Those who make *idols* are just like them.” (Psalm 115:8). To bow to an idol – a man made thing – is to exchange your glory for a piece of steel or wood! (Psalm 106:20; Romans 1:20).

“Son what you set your heart upon will begin to transform you into its image! Choose therefore wisely what or to whom you give your heart!”

“Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is! And every man that has this hope in him purifies himself even as He is pure.” (1 John 3:2 – 3).

Idolatry comes in many forms. While in our Western culture we rarely see an idol per se¹ we still may find our hearts worshipping steel and wood albeit such idols have four wheels and mortgages. Modern idolatry may include sports heroes, Hollywood or pop music stars, or the pursuit of such lifestyles that fain happiness and fulfillment. Even our wrong attitudes and ideas of the Lord Himself may turn to idolatry when we refuse to receive the truth concerning Him.²

Remember, you will eventually become like that thing or being you worship! This passage is perhaps one of the most grievous verses in the whole of Scripture. As Ephraim has so worshipped false gods the Lord pronounces this curse upon him – “let him alone!” No more possibility of redemption. No more conviction of the Holy Spirit. No more the hope of Heaven gained!

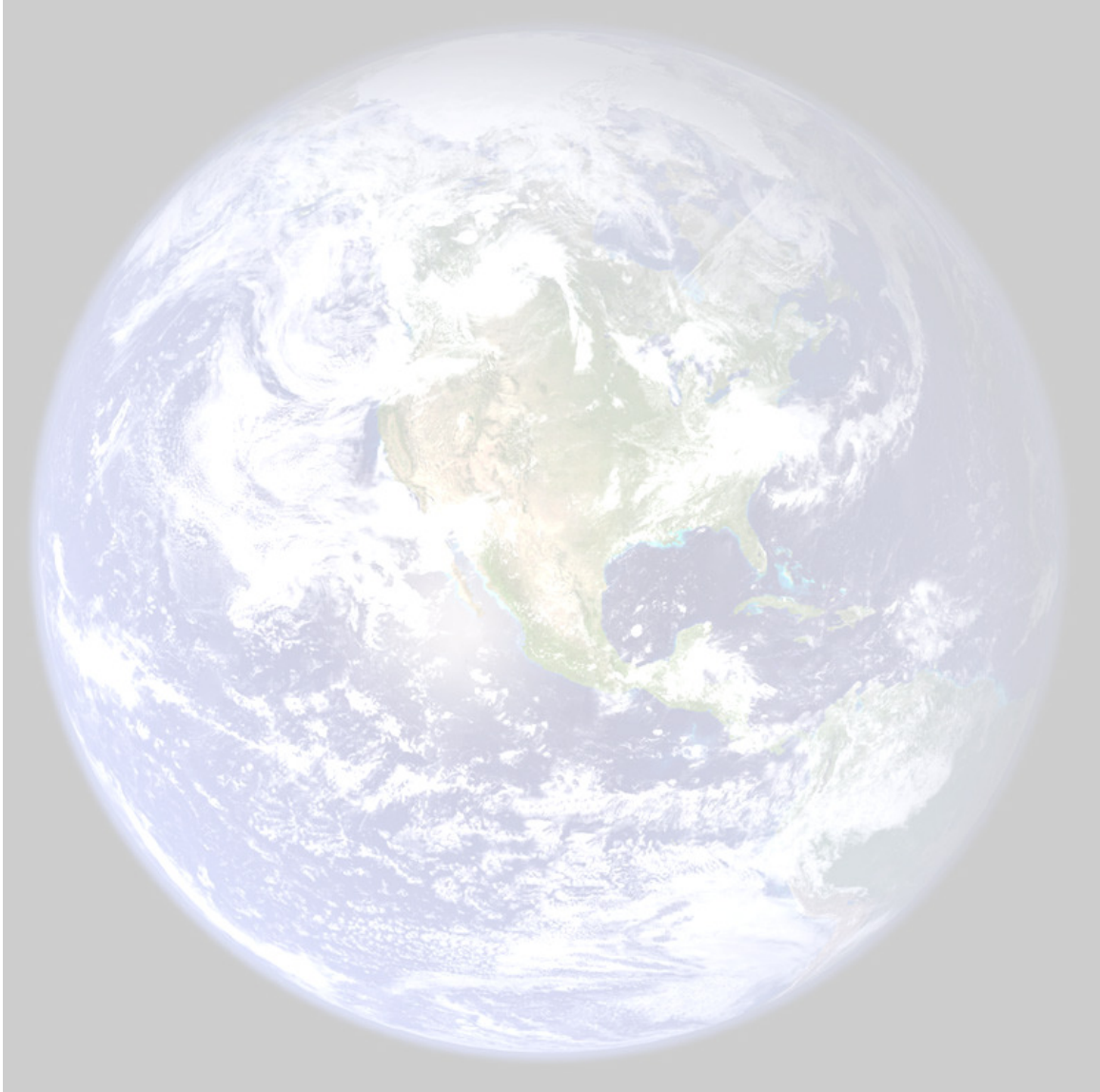
“Lord, please keep me from idols and idolatrous thoughts of You. My heart cries that there be no other gods within my life, but You alone. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

¹ Although as we drift from our Christian foundations more and more idolatrous images and practices are emerging openly within our culture!

² “*Hezekiah* removed the high places, and broke the images, and cut down the groves, and broke in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.” 2 King 18:4

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