



Isaiah 44:6-23 **‘The futility of idolatry’** **Week 3**

This week our study will be a little different from usual. Rather than focus on the passage preached on the Sunday, we will step back and look more closely at some verses we have skipped over. Isaiah 44 contains one of the Old Testament’s greatest messages about the futility of idolatry. We need to soak ourselves in these words so as to recognize the extreme folly of being seduced by the idols of our own age. All idols bear one thing in common—one thing that renders each one completely useless in the big scheme of things. That is, no idol is God. And that means no idol can save. And no idol can really help in the dark times. True hope can be found only in God and God’s Servant Messiah. During this study we will aim to consider carefully God’s warnings against making idols.

Read Isaiah 44:6-20

Make a list of the characteristics of idols and what they can and cannot do.

Make a list of the characteristics of those who make idols.

How do these characteristics highlight the blindness and futility of idolatry.

List some of the contemporary idols of our culture.

Why are people seduced to place their hope in these idols?

Can you identify particular idols that Christians are susceptible to being seduced by? If you are willing, share some of the idols that you are tempted to make.

Romans 1:18-25 reveals idolatry to be a universal problem of the human heart. **Why do you think people choose to replace the Creator God with created idols? What does this reveal about the state of our hearts and our attitude towards God?**

Read Isaiah 44:21-23

What does it mean to 'remember' and 'return'? How are we to respond to this call in the light of God's grace towards us in Jesus? How is this cause for praise?

Draw up a godly plan for overcoming idolatry. Consider a practical example of how you could apply this.

Prayer

Confess to God your idolatry and ask his help to treat him as God alone.

Praise God for the gift of his Servant Messiah to redeem us from our empty idolatry.

Pray that as Christians we will be recognizably different from those around us who live for created things rather than the Creator.