

## MAKING THE GOD OF MY CHOICE

### Isaiah 40:18-25

*John Kachelman, Jr.*

#### INTRODUCTION

- A. The Sin of Idolatry.
  - 1. Stated at the beginning of the Ten Commandments, Ex. 20:3.
  - 2. Once idolatry has begun, man's understanding of who God really is confuses his religious beliefs and practices, the truth of God is polluted, and all is lost!
  - 3. Man is not necessarily drawn rock, wooden or metal idols.
  - 4. Satan's scheme is not to get us to say, "there is no God" but to say that there is a different God than what we have learned that the Bible teaches. This scheme begins in our minds, 2 Cor. 10:5; Ephesians 6:11.
  - 5. This evil scheme is found repeatedly in Scripture and is evident today:
    - a. A religion of convenience, but no conviction.
    - b. A god who is personal and up close but not the sovereign Lord.
    - c. Those who follow feelings rather than faith.
- B. Who is God? (*Pharaoh, Ex. 5:2*)
  - 1. How do you answer that question?
  - 2. Isaiah 40:18-25 – nothing is comparable to God.
  - 3. Making God to be something that bridges this infinity is idolatry, Isa. 55:8-9.
- C. John Kachelman, Jr., *Making God in Our Image*, lists 7 traits of idolatry.

#### I. TRAITS OF IDOLATRY.

- A. The Supernatural is Recognized.
  - 1. The existence of God is not denied, just redefined – different than in Scripture.
  - 2. Romans 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:2, 4, 5
- B. The Biblical God is Redesigned.
  - 1. Psalm 81:9; Isaiah 43:12.
  - 2. The word "strange" in Scripture comes from the root meaning "to turn aside from".
  - 3. Turning from the true meaning and fashioning something different.
  - 4. Seeking to redefine God to allow "their way" is condemned, Hebrews 13:9.
- C. It is Selfishly Motivated.
  - 1. Those practicing "idolatry" are motivated by selfish interests.
  - 2. They reject the God of Scripture because He does not interest their selfish yearnings.
  - 3. They fashion a "god" who can co-exist with their selfishness.
    - a. I.e., Jeroboam – 1 Kings 12:27
    - b. 3 Jn. 9.
- D. It is Sincerely Misconstrued.
  - 1. Idolaters perform their religion sincerely, but in opposition to God, Mt. 7:21-23.
  - 2. This sincerity is not truth, but delusion, 2 Thess. 2:10-11.
  - 3. If one is sincere, then even the worst practices are allowed.
  - 4. God does not tolerate this type of religion, Rom. 10:1-3.
- E. The Truth of God is Changed.
  - 1. The only way the Biblical God can be refashioned is by altering or ignoring biblical truth about Him, Rom. 1:25; 2 Tim. 2:16-18.

2. Many say there is no absolute truth. What is true for one may not be for another.
  3. Their concept of God is built on an everchanging foundation, Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8.
- F. Perplexity and Inconsistency.
1. Beliefs are constantly changing – leading to inconsistencies.
  2. When asked to give answers for their beliefs, they are often confused, Eph. 4:14.
  3. They become upset when asked to give a reason for their belief.
  4. They prefer to be left alone with their idolatry, 1 Peter 3:15.
- G. Stubbornness Makes Religion Restricted.
1. The only reason to reject the biblical concept of God is to follow self.
  2. When we refuse to crucify self (Lk. 9:23) we will submit to our selfish desires.
  3. This selfishness soon redesigns God, so that he feels he has divine approval.
    - a. Disobedience of Saul, 1 Sam. 15:23.
    - b. Jer. 23:16-17
  4. Modern man seeks to find God in his own way, own experience, own personal meaning.

## CLOSING

- A. How do you view God?
1. Is it a negotiable portrait?
  2. Is it crafted to personal tastes?
  3. Is it according to the Truth of Scripture?
- B. God **IS** and He will not change.
1. Doesn't matter our take on God, His rules, laws or commands.
  2. He is the "great I AM."
  3. We must accept Him and obey His will, 1 Jn. 5:21.