

Psalms 119:113-120 – Fighting Against Idolatry

This Sunday morning, we will be looking at Psalms 119:113-120. Even though the actual Word is not found in there, this passage is about idolatry. But what do we mean today when we talk about “idols?” In Australia and most western cultures, very people bow down to idols, make offerings to statues or worship carved images. However, the absence of the outward trappings of idolatry does not mean that we do not worship idols. An idol is something that a person devotes himself to or trusts in for ultimate satisfaction, security or salvation. Tim Keller explains that an idol is “anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give . . . An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart of hearts, ‘If I have that, then I’ll feel my life has meaning, then I’ll know I have value, then I’ll feel significant and secure.’” It could be a girlfriend. It could be good grades. It could be the approval of other people. It could be success in business or a number of other things.

Idolatry is a sin that we all contend with. John Calvin said, “Man’s nature, so to speak, is a perpetual factory of idols.” So how do we win the fight against idolatry in our own hearts? The psalmist has some experience in this battle. It is a battle he fought and lost sometimes, and it is a battle that, by God’s grace, he won sometimes. And in this passage, he has some words of counsel for us as we fight that battle today. Join us Sunday as we look at eight things that he teaches us about fighting the fight against idolatry.

Pastor Paul

Newsletter

Devotional By Paul Tripp

Has your personal study of the Word of God informed and enlarged your brain without convicting and transforming your heart?

When I was a younger pastor, I was exegeting my way through Romans, engulfed in an intoxicating world of language syntax and theological argument. I labored over tenses, contexts, objects, and connectors. I studied etymologies and the Pauline vocabulary.

Countless hours of disciplined private study were represented by page upon page of notes. It was all very gratifying. I felt so proud that I had filled my notebook with copious notes on Romans.

Then one evening, it hit me. It was a sweet moment of divine rescue by the Holy Spirit. I had spent hours each day for months studying perhaps the most extensive and gorgeous exposition of the gospel that has ever been written, yet I had been fundamentally untouched by its message.

My study of the Word of God had been a massive intellectual exercise but almost utterly devoid of spiritual, heart-transforming power.

You may never exegete an entire book of the Bible, but God does call you to be a diligent student of his Word. But here's the danger: because of remaining sin and self-righteousness, our study of Scripture could leave us with big theological brains and untouched and diseased hearts.

Could I be describing you? Here are three signs of an untouched and diseased heart that I have experienced, even after studying passages that speak directly to these symptoms!

Devotional By Paul Tripp

Anxiety

In Matthew 6, Christ asks his followers, "Why are you anxious?" He explains that it makes sense for the Gentiles (unbelievers) to be anxious because they don't have a heavenly Father, then reminds us that we have a Father who knows what we need and is committed to delivering it.

As you study the Word of God and see evidence of his past, present, and future provision splashed across every page (Phil. 4:19, 2 Pet. 1:3, etc.), does it give your heart rest? If this theology informs your brain but does not capture your heart, the anxieties of life will likely influence how you live.

Control

I am convinced that rest in this chaotic world, submission to authority, and a willingness to give and share control all arise from a sure knowledge that every single detail of our lives is under the careful administration of One of awesome glory.

As you memorize verses like Daniel 4:35, Psalm 135:6, and Isaiah 46:10, does it create peace in your heart? When the theology of God's sovereignty moves beyond your brain and transforms your heart, you won't have to be in control of everything and everyone in your life.

Addiction

Whenever you ask creation to do what only the Creator can do, you are on your way to addiction. I'm not talking about life-destroying addictions that require a rehabilitation center, but anything (however small) that provides a temporary retreat or pleasure or buzz that you return to again and again. When the joy of Christ isn't ruling your heart, you are rendered more susceptible to some form of everyday addiction.

As you study the Word of God, are you searching for heart and life-transforming pleasure? (The pleasure of knowing, serving, and pleasing Christ: see 2 Cor. 5:9, 1 Thes. 4:1, Eph. 5:10) Some Christians get way too much pleasure from being theogeeks!

I am not suggesting at all that your Bible study cannot include any scholarly components. But whenever you search the Scriptures, it should be a time of worship and not just education.

Each time you open the Word of God, you should be looking for your beautiful Saviour, whose beauty alone has the power to overwhelm any other beauty that could capture your heart.

Children's Church Workers

Jenny and Josephine (Combined Class) / **Creche Workers:** Jocelyn and Charmaine

Church Cleaners

August – Daniel Goh

This week please pray for

A church family – Henry and Amy Eugenio

A church ministry – Growing Kids Parenting Class

A church leader – Noel and Pines Hearsey

Announcements

– Growing Kids Gods Way Parenting Course: Sunday 4:30pm at Church

Upcoming Events

– **Basecamp Livestream: 8th August at the church.** [Breakfast served at 8:30am – Livestream starting 9am].

Register individually at: <https://basecampmen.com/registration/> and RSVP with Pastor Mike on attendance.

– **OneLove Women Livestream and FBC Women's Breakfast: 22nd August at the church. 9AM - 1PM.**

Register individually at: <https://onelovewomen.com/register> and RSVP with April on attendance.

Breakfast will be provided. *Register before 1st August to receive a free OneLove gift pack.*

Ministry Opportunities at FBC

Looking to serve at church?

We have opportunities in the following ministries.

Scripture Reading

Glen Truman (glen8truman@gmail.com)

Music Item for Sunday Service

Pastor Brian (bkeggert@outlook.com)

Holiday Bible Club

Ann Millis (themillisfamily2001@gmail.com)

Children's Church and Creche Workers

April Kwok (apriljoy18th@gmail.com)

Church Cleaning

Glen Truman (glen8truman@gmail.com)

Missions: Steve and Jane Gibb with Biblical Ministries Worldwide

July 6

Weekly Prayer Points

"My dear friends, if you and I had been without trouble, we never could have had such a promise as this given to us: 'As thy days, so shall thy strength be.' It is our weakness that has made room for God to give us such a promise as this." C.H. Spurgeon

Thank you for your prayers this past week as we have felt sustained and seen God work powerfully.

Please give thanks to God for:

1. Wisdom given in complicated relationships.
2. God's Spirit working in the two days of training delivered in Canberra.
3. Good meetings with our BMW administration.
4. Strength to work with disrupted sleep schedule.

Please pray:

1. Organising helpful support for our missionaries while none of us can travel.
2. God to bring peace in a church planting conflict.
3. Jane and I do conflict coaching this Tuesday with a Christian worker in preparation for a mediation.
4. Wednesday we teach from 11 pm to 1 am in our BMW Candidate School via Zoom.
5. God to give wisdom in rolling out our peace training across our entire mission family.

Thank you for praying for us this week.

Steve and Jane Gibb

Missions

July 13

Dear Friends,

We feel we have been carried along by your prayers and thank you for that. We praise the Lord for good meetings with those in conflict and strength to teach through odd hours at night.

This week Jane and I are taking a sabbath rest for two nights in the city. Please pray for us to find our delight in God and for our souls to be refreshed.

Please pray:

1. This week we continue conflict coaching with two people as we prepare them for mediation.
2. Pray for two marriage counselling opportunities.
3. Wisdom in helping others work through church conflict in two local churches.
4. We have new neighbours from India and they brought us a gift! Pray for gospel opportunities with them.
5. We meet weekly with a team of youth workers in our church. Pray for fruitful relationships with the next generation of leaders.

We are praying for many of you in America who are going through such difficult times. We are thankful for your partnership in giving and prayer even as you have so many needs yourselves.

In Christ's eternal love,

Steve and Jane Gibb

July 20
20 July 2020

Dear Praying Friends,

This past week we sent out an email to our conflict resolution support team (you can join by request). In preparing a person for an upcoming mediation they could not see their contribution to the conflict nor were they willing/able to open their heart to us. We grieved with and for them over this and called upon our faithful prayer warriors. This is not unusual. By the time a personal conflict reaches a stage needing mediation, there are usually multiple hurts over a period of time, and none of us respond well when wounded. You can only imagine our joy when this weekend we received an email from this person saying God had changed their heart and they are now ready to work on giving an apology in the mediation. This is the power of prayer and we thank you who prayed for us this past week.

Praise

Thank God for a good time of rest during our days off last week.

Thank God for working grace into a wounded heart.

Thank God for profitable meetings with our youth workers.

Pray

Monday - Preparation for Peacewise training in September.

Tuesday - Conflict Coaching

Wednesday - Counselling a missionary going through deep church division.

Thursday - Conflict Coaching

Friday - Encouraging missionaries raising support in Covid conditions.

Saturday - For missionaries who want to return to the field but cannot and those who need to return home but cannot.

Sunday - all our churches struggling to remain resilient in the face of constant change.

Thank you for your faithful prayers.

Steve and Jane Gibb

uly 27

Where to 27 July 2020?

INDONESIA! Even though we can't go at the moment, you can continue to pray and support Bible translation in this country. Jane and I were headed to see Grace in March when Coronavirus lockdown struck the world. Would you take two minutes of your time to get to know Grace by watching her Youtube video? She is a remarkable woman of God. You can also support her financially as she translates the Bible simply by purchasing some coffee from Coffee Helping Missions.

Praise the Lord:

Both people we are preparing for mediation are preparing apologies to make to each other.
An exciting offer to help us design and implement online learning in peacemaking with BMW.

Prayer:

For wisdom for those in BMW making decisions about our vision for online learning possibilities.

For patience and endurance with ongoing Covid 19 restrictions.

Several of our missionaries have had tickets canceled at the last minute trying to return to their ministries (including Bible translation with Grace).

Vital ministry of encouragement as every missionary around the world faces significant uncertainty in varying ways and degrees.

Power of the gospel in our conflict coaching and counselling.

Thank you for your prayerful support.

Yours in Christ,

Steve and Jane Gibb