



# Shiloh Messenger

July 2024

## *Who Has The Throne?*

*Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. ~Jonah 2:8*

In a small East Texas town, an elderly member of a local church aired to her pastor that she was very angry with God. “Why are you angry?” asked the pastor. The woman, a faithful congregant of senior membership huffed, “Because He let my poor little dog die!” The pastor gently consoled the woman assuring her that all would be well and he walked away extremely puzzled and discouraged. “Your poor dog? Seriously?!” the pastor thought. “What did she expect would eventually happen and how in her mind is this God’s fault?” he wondered. As he laid his head down that evening, he fell asleep with an unsettling certainty that human hearts are factories where idols are fashioned out of the good gifts God gives us into unrivalled objects of worship.

The Holy Spirit begins drawing impurities out of the heart as soon as He takes residence within us. There are obvious sins and character traits easy to identify that we immediately become convicted of. Cursing, lying, substance abuse, and sexual immorality are some of the usual suspects that we typically find necessary to dispel. However, as Christ rewires our hearts, conforms us more and more into His image, and works to be Lord over our entire lives we will inevitably be confronted with pieces of ourselves He says are in the way of His lordship. Pieces of ourselves that we are often willing to fight for. Idols.

***“Do not let your happiness depend on something you may lose.”***

***- C.S. Lewis***

Idolatry is anything absorbing your devotion, imagination, and energy above God. Idolatry is the chief expression of unfaithfulness in the Bible. Abram was called **OUT** from among his idolatrous culture to be the father of many people who would become a nation set apart for God. Moses received the Law which began with a commandment to have **NO** other gods before God Almighty. Jeremiah proclaimed that all false idols **WILL VANISH** from the earth and from under the heavens. Without question, God will not share His throne with another.

“Little children, keep yourselves from idols.” is how the apostle John ends his monumental first letter. How do we do this? We must learn to identify our idols and pray for the conviction to remove them once they’re discovered. Breaking down our idols is often difficult because we do not want them exposed. It’s hard to admit that we’ve made idols out of our politics, our work, our ministry, our relationships, and comforts. The thought of tearing them down threatens our happiness and purpose. Every good and perfect gift comes from the Father (James 1:17), but only the Father is to have our good and perfect adoration.

In John 15, Jesus calls us to abide in Him. The call to abide in Christ means to stay bound and anchored to Him through everything. When we experience failure, grief, anger or injustice, who or what do we turn to? Are there good things (food, family, finances, ministry, recreation, ... a little dog) we make into superior things and even elicit anger at the One who gives them when things go awry?

Let us pray God grants us the ability to see all we’ve exalted over Him, to repent of our idols, to cling to Christ who clung to a cross for our peace and happiness, and to present ourselves as a purified Body loving Him over all else. Then we can rightfully represent Him to a hostile idolatrous world in need of redemption.

This Springtime has been a wonderful season here at Shiloh Ministries. We have had two teams come from out of state to invest in our students with incredible ministry and encouragement. Most recently we had Judge Hoychik of St. Landry Parish in Louisiana arrive with his team who challenged our students with the difference between yielding to Satan's desires for humanity and God's declarative truth found in His Word. Over an intense weekend, our men heard testimonies from each member of the team, engaged in small groups, and committed time to intercession. These gatherings were nothing short of preparing our students for their future as sheep among wolves in the world that awaits them after graduation. Judge Hoychik and his team nailed down such rich spiritual principals in equipping every believer for warfare against our foe. Some of Satan's tactics we tend to take for granted are: A) How sin appears to us as appealing so choosing disobedience to God seems less important. B) Satan is a master of twisting scripture, leading people into error and at worst false conversion. C) He promotes confusion causing people to act hastily out of emotion, foolishly, and irrationally. D) Looks for ways to distract believers into not holding fast what the Word says about them and God's grace. Of all the things he uses against us, Judge Hoychik provided solid scriptural truths for standing against the enemy's tactics. John 15:16 says that we are chosen! John 17:17 says that our Lord Jesus asks the Father to set us apart! Paul declares in Ephesians 1 that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and in chapter 2 that believers are seated in heavenly places and we are God's workmanship created for good works! Romans 8 says we are secure in God's love and nothing can separate us from Him! Colossians 1 says we've already been rescued from darkness and brought into the kingdom of Jesus! Hebrews 10 assures us that all with faith in Christ's atoning work are given direct access to God and we are all made perfect in Christ! The last evening ended in the Shiloh Chapel where Judge Hoychick and his team led our students through a traditional 1st century Church service as the early Christians would've held when they hid from the persecuting Jews in the Roman Catacombs. Hymns were sung in candle light, spontaneous scripture passages were read and prayer for one another took place. Sunday morning the visiting team led our service and our students, led by the Holy Spirit, laid hands upon Judge Hoychick's wife for a healing she's been needing. To God be the glory for all He is doing this season!



***Shiloh Ministries is one of The Lord's many Ministry tools to reconcile men for restoration. We are blessed to be used of Him to preach the un-searchable riches that are in Christ Jesus (Eph. 3:8). Everyday we are hearing such wonderful testimonies of our Graduates pursuing their calling of a Godly husband, father, missionary, Staff person at local Churches and a minister of reconciliation in the work place. We are asking that you prayerfully consider financially supporting Shiloh Ministries every month. The Lord's ministry at Shiloh has always been financially free for the man who desires freedom from his addictions. Because of this, we simply trust The Holy Spirit to lead people to give financially. This ministry is grateful to those who express gratitude to God by co-laboring with us in discipleship. The expenditures are huge managing a campus that houses over 30 students, staff & interns. Please prayerfully consider Shiloh Ministries every month as good ground for your financial seed. We invite you to visit our web-site and read our Testimony section. It bares witness of our graduates fruit that is on display, for The Glory of God. Thanks for your giving to The Lord's Ministry at Shiloh!***



*LORD of the Harvest (Wheat & Weed's),  
Matt. 9:38*

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