

Psalm 97

Exalted Above All gods

The Lord reigns ...

I. Above All

- A. Creation
- B. gods
- C. Man

II. Against Idolatry

- A. Images
- B. Idolaters

III. In the Praise of His People

- A. The Joy of the Upright
- B. Above all Passions

... give thanks to His holy name!

Children, Listen ...

1. Should anyone or anything be worshiped other than God?
2. What are the idols, images, and statues people make for worship after all?
3. Is there still spiritual danger in worshiping creatures and manmade things?
4. How are God's people supposed to feel about things that are evil?

Don't Be Like Them

Though images, idols and statues have no life in and of themselves there is definitely a spiritual element involved when they are made the objects of worship. It brings people into spiritual bondage. We are even told in one place that those who worship idols become like them – in essence, dead. There are many warnings throughout Scripture about the dangers of worshipping creatures and manmade things. Not only is such practice folly, it is a heinous affront to our holy God. We might think modern western culture is too sophisticated to fall into the ridiculous practice of worshipping items – but maybe we are too sophisticated to see how subtle such worship really is and how material things can easily replace God in our affections. One striking phrase from Paul may put it all in perspective. At the end of a list of sinful earthly practices he adds “covetousness, which is idolatry.” (Colossians 3:5). The inordinate love of things and envy over what others have is one of many “modern day” forms of idolatry that we must guard against. What a wonderful thing is to be set free from pagan forms of idol worship – and what a wonderful thing it is to keep the things of this passing world in perspective. We worship God alone in spirit and in truth. *Rejoice in the Lord, O your righteous, and give thanks to His holy name!*