

## **ALL IN TO BUILD FOR OUR FUTURE**

*“The God of heaven Himself will prosper us: therefore we His servants will arise and build...So we built...for the people had a mind to work. A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children...”* **Nehemiah 2:20; 4:6; Proverbs 13:22**  
(NKJV)



### ***This Week’s Thought – September 17, 2017***

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*“We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one.”* 1  
Corinthian 8:4(b) (NIV)

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The truth is, there are times we all struggle with keeping God on the throne of our hearts—So, we must be careful lest we chase idols or lesser loves with such fervor that they change our life’s direction and hinder our effectiveness for Christ.

How can this happen? Well, because what we love affects how we spend our money, steward our relationships, what we dream about, work for, and how we spend our time. In short, the affection of our hearts sets the direction of our lives. That’s huge because no one wants to get to the end of their days and realize they chased frivolous and empty idols.

In fact, the word “*idol*” means “emptiness”. I find this definition interesting because we don’t usually believe our idols are “emptiness”, and we don’t consider how they can change the direction of our lives. Otherwise, we wouldn’t cling to them. Instead, we believe they’re “*something-ness*”. We may even think, “Sure, my idol doesn’t really satisfy me, but at least it has some value.”

God has a different idea. If something is empty, it’s empty. It’s not partially empty or sort of empty or a little bit empty—it’s just empty! This means that idols can’t bring lasting peace or satisfaction to anyone’s life.

In fact, when we love anything or anyone more than God because we believe it will help us, make us feel better, become us more content, relieve us from the pain of suffering, give us significance, fix something we believe is broken in us, or make us happy, the results are always the same: anger, lack of contentment, frustration, envy, self-pity—and emptiness.

September 17, 2017

If your affections have drawn you away from God and empty idols are setting the direction for your life, talk with the Lord about it today, confess your sin, and give Him the seat on the throne of your life.

*“He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, ‘Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?’” (Isaiah44:2)*

**Application:** Journal about those things that might be standing between you and the Lord, and talk with God about what you have written.

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:** “Dear God, I pray for Your help in helping me to take away my hidden blocks. I pray You will help me to confront the fears that caused me to place barriers within myself of seeming self-protection. I am ready to live more. I am ready to live higher. Help me to rediscover who I really am. Help me to rediscover who I can really be. I consent to becoming more and doing more, by confessing and repenting of those things/idols that might be standing between me and You. Give me the courage to climb over the self-imposed blocks and free myself. Help me to come out of my shell...I am ready and willing to grow, unfold, advance, and progress. In You I am free to live and to love in faith. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

*“And then God answered: "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.” Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)*

Yours in Christ, Pastor King