Thursology 104: Stunning Surprise in a Secular World: EVERYONE Worships SOMETHING*!!!* (The Mark & Worship-Pt 3)

(*Thursology Live!* 10/5/2023)

--Review:

--The biggest surprise about The Mark of the Beast: It's _____ about _____*!!!*

--Three Unchangeable Facts About Worship:

--Unchangeable Fact #1: Humans are inherently _____ beings

--The defining attribute of humanity is…*worship*!!!

A. _____ years ago

--Genesis 31:17-19: Then Jacob arose and put his children and his wives upon camels; and he drove away all his livestock and all his property which he had gathered…to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac. When Laban had gone to shear his flock, then Rachel stole the *household idols* that were her father's.

B. Ancient _____

--Exodus 12:11-12: "…you shall eat it in haste—it is the Lord's Passover. For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and *against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments*—I am the Lord."

C. The ancient peoples _____ Egypt

--At the time of the Exodus…look at what God described about the tribes and cultures in the land that He was taking the Israelites into… →

--Exodus 23:23-24, 32: For My angel will go before you and bring you in to the land of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites…*You shall not worship their gods*, nor serve them, nor do according to their deeds; but you shall utterly overthrow them and break *their sacred pillars* in pieces…You shall make no covenant with them or with their gods.

--Idolatry in Mesopotamia: ____ of the ancient tribes worshiped _____ gods

D. _____

--Ezekiel 23:7: Jerusalem bestowed her harlotries on them, all of whom were the choicest men of *Assyria*; and with all whom she lusted after, with all their *idols* she defiled herself.

E. _____

--Jer 51:47: "…behold, days are coming when I shall punish the *idols of Babylon*…"

F. _____

--Ezra 1:7: Also King Cyrus brought out the articles of the house of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and put in *the house of his gods*…

G. _____

--Acts 17:16: Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the *city full of idols*.

H. _____

--Acts 12:21-22: On an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them. And the people kept crying out, "*The voice of a god and not of a man*!"

--Key Concept #1: _____ humans worship *changes*…but _____ we worship…will *never* change*!!!*

--Key Concept #2: We will all _____ worship _____*!!!*

--Key Concept #3: When humans take our eyes off of the One True God…we *inevitably* set up false _____ and false _____…and *every one* of these is a false _____*!!!*

--Unchangeable Fact #2: There's no _____ to the _____ that people will accept from their _____*!!!*

A. I Chronicles 16:25-26

--"…great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; He also is to be feared above all gods. For *all the gods* of the peoples are *idols*…"

--The Hebrew term: Translated as "idols"…literally means…
"_____ things"

--A remarkable blindness of the human race: People will stake their whole _____ on things that aren't _____*!!!*

B. Psalm 115:3-7

--"…our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. Their *idols* are silver and gold, the work of man's hands. They have mouths, but they *cannot* speak; they have eyes, but they *cannot* see; they have ears, but they *cannot* hear; they have noses, but they *cannot* smell; they have hands, but they *cannot* feel; they have feet, but they *cannot* walk; they *cannot* make a sound with their throat.

--What humans will accept as a "god": People can be so _____ that they'll accept imitations, façades, and fakes as _____ for hope, deliverance, healing, joy, and freedom*!!!*

C. Isaiah 2:12, 18, 20

--For the Lord of hosts will have a day of reckoning…But the *idols* will completely vanish…In that day they will *cast away* to the moles and the bats their *idols* of silver and their *idols* of gold, which *they made for themselves to worship*…

--A tragic and worthless use of a human life: People will completely _____ themselves to things that they will ultimately _____ away*!!!*

--Ezekiel 16:17-21: "You also took your beautiful jewels made of *My* gold and of *My* silver, which *I had given you*, and *made for yourself* male images that you might play the harlot with them. Then you took your embroidered cloth and covered them, and offered My oil and My incense before them. Also My bread which *I gave you*, fine flour, oil and honey with which *I fed you*, you would offer before *them* for a soothing aroma; so it happened," declares the Lord God. "Moreover, you took *your sons and daughters* whom you had borne to Me and *sacrificed them to idols to be devoured*. Were your harlotries so small a matter? You slaughtered *My children* and offered them up to idols by causing them to pass through the fire."

--A stunning picture of the price of replacing God: People will _____ their most _____ possessions...to worthless, vain, empty objects of their worship*!!!*

D. Exodus 32:1-4

--Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron and said to him, "Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do

not know what has become of him." And Aaron said to them, "*Tear off the gold rings* which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. And He took this from their hand, and *fashioned it with a graving tool* and *made it into a molten calf*; and they said, "*This is your god*, O Israel, *who brought you up from the land of Egypt*."

--A silly…but real…exposé on human idolatry: People will even believe that melted _____ can perform _____*!!!*

E. Daniel 3:4-7

--Then the herald loudly proclaimed: "To you the command is given, O peoples, nations and men of every language, that at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up. But whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire." Therefore at that time, when *all the peoples* heard the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, *all the peoples*, nations and men of every language *fell down and worshiped the golden image* that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

--Point #1: Except for the three Hebrew children…_____ in the entire city of Babylon worshiped the _____

--Point #2: Humans will even _____ for their _____*!!!*

--Point #3: The _____ Nebuchadnezzar was a prophetic foreshadowing of the _____ "Nebuchadnezzar"!!!

--Rev 13:11-15: Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he… exercises all the authority of the first beast…And he makes *the earth and those who dwell in it* to *worship* the first beast…And he performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven…And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs…telling those who dwell on the earth to make an *image* to the beast…And it was given to him to give breath to the *image* of the beast, so that the *image* of the beast would even speak and cause as many as *do not worship the image* of the beast *to be killed*.

--Unchangeable Fact #3: Every _____ has *new* idols…no matter how "_____" or "_____" they become*!!!*

--A short list of examples of today's idols:

A. _____ figures

B. _____ teams

C. _____ figures

D. _____

--Matthew 6:24: *No one* can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You *cannot* serve *God* and *wealth*.

--A huge surprise to those who aren't paying close attention: Money has _____ attribute of a _____*!!!*

--Colossians 3:5: Therefore, consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, *which amounts to idolatry*.

--What the Greek says in this text: "…and *greed*, which _____ *idolatry*."

--Ephesians 5:5: For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or *covetous* man, who *is* an *idolater*, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

--The direct connection between coveting…and idolatry: The one who covets… who _____ that which is not theirs…or that which _____ has not seen fit to give them…is an _____*!!!*

--II Peter 3:10: But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will *pass away with a roar* and the *elements will be destroyed with intense heat*, and *the earth and its works will be burned up*.

--The unalterable *destiny* of *every* object in the Universe…and *everything* ever *possessed* by a human: It's _____ gonna _____*!!!*

E. _____-stealers

--A great definition for idolatry: Apart from air and sustenance…that which I _____ live _____…has become a god in my life*!!!*

--**Application**: The _____ of *idolatry* must be *relentlessly* _____…or even God's children will _____ to it*!!!*

--A summary of the biblical precepts of worship and idolatry: _____…and *especially*…_____ things…can easily become _____ gods*!!!*

--*The Screwtape Letters* (CS Lewis)

--"My Dear Wormwood, Obviously you are making excellent progress…we have introduced a change of direction in the Patient's course which is already *carrying him out of his orbit around the Enemy*; but he must be *made to imagine* that *all the choices* which have effected this change of course *are trivial and revocable*. He *must not be allowed to suspect* that he is now, however slowly, *heading right away from the Light on a line which will carry him into the cold and outer darkness*. For this reason, *I am almost glad to hear that he is still a churchgoer and taking communion*. I know there are dangers in this; but *anything is better* than that he would *realize the break he has made* with the first months of his Christian life. *As long as he retains externally* the habits of a Christian, he can still be made to *think of himself* as one whose spiritual state is *much the same as it was*…and *while he thinks that*, we do not have to contend with the *explicit repentance of a definite, fully recognized, sin*, but only with his *vague feeling* that he hasn't been doing very well lately…You will say that the sins he has begun to toy with are *very small sins*; and doubtless, like all young tempters, you are *anxious* to be able to report *spectacular wickedness*. But do remember, the *only* thing that matters is *the extent to which you separate the man from the Enemy*. It does not matter *how small the sins are*, provided that their *cumulative effect* is to *edge the man away from the Light and out into The Nothing*. *Murder* is no better than *cards* if cards *can do the trick*. Indeed, *the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without sign-posts*."

--Questions:

--If you're really honest with yourself…is there anything that links you to the long and sad history of idolatry? Is there anything in your life that's at risk of becoming more important to you than simple obedience to the will of God? Is there anything that has replaced Him as your hope…your desire…your security…your future…your trust…your first love???

Thursology 103: A Most Unexpected Discovery About "The Mark": It's All About Worship!!! (The Mark-Pt 2)

(*Thursology Live!* 9/7/2023)

--What is the nature of "The Mark"???

--#1: The Mark will be an identifiable *physical* marking…the represents the *name* of The Antichrist…either on their forehead or right hand

--#2: The Mark will be used to help *control* a world *economic* system to allow or prevent buying and selling

--#3: The Mark identifies the *followers* of Antichrist

--#4: It is *explicitly* given to those who *worship* the Beast

--#5: It is a Mark of *loyalty* to the Antichrist

--#6: The Mark is a matter of *life* and *death*

--#7: The Mark is *irrevocable*

> --Rev 22:4: There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and *His bond-servants will serve Him*; they will see His face, and *His name will be on their foreheads*.

--A Key Concept: In the end…the *essence* of the *difference* between the two kinds of people…*isn't* the **MARK**…it's their **WORSHIP***!!!*

> --Rev 22:8b-9: And when I heard and saw, *I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel* who showed me these things. But he said to me, "*Do not do that*. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. *Worship God*."

--The unequivocal, explicit, history-defining, powerful, commanding, piercing meaning of the Book: The *whole* of Revelation can be boiled down to the exquisite clarity of this two-word command: "**WORSHIP**…**GOD***!!!!*"

--The basis for this mini-series on worship: The issue of the **CENTRAL** role of *worship*…in all of human *life*…all of human *history*…and all of human *destiny*…has been missed in almost all of…**ESCHATOLOGY**!!!

--John 4:23-24: But an hour is coming, and now is, when the *true* worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people *the Father seeks* to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him *must* worship in *spirit* and *truth*."

--Two Biblical Truths About Worship:

--Worship Truth #1: Our TRUE worship isn't *just* what we do on SUNDAY…it's what we do in *all* of LIFE*!!!*

--Worship Error #1: The "**COMPARTMENTALIZATION**" of worship in the modern church

> --An expression of the compartmentalization of worship: We've made the term "worship" synonymous with a **TWENTY**-minute *segment* of **MUSIC** that we participate in…once a **WEEK**
>
> --New Covenant Worship Precept #1: Christians don't go to the **TEMPLE** to worship…we **ARE** the very temple of God…**OURSELVES***!!!*
>
> > --II Cor 6:16: "…For *we are the temple of the living God*; just as God said, "I will dwell *in them* and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

--Ephesians 2:19-22: So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the *corner stone*, in whom *the whole building*, being fitted together, is growing into *a holy temple in the Lord*, in whom you also are being *built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit*.

--II Cor 2:14: But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and *manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place*.

--New Covenant Worship Precept #2: For the Christian…*worship* is supposed to be **CO**-*existent* with…**LIFE**!!!

--Worship Truth #2: No worship SERVICE…no matter how *good*…is…in ITSELF…TRUE worship*!!!*

--Worship Error #2: Accepting **COUNTERFEITS** instead of the actual **PRESENCE** of God

--Mark 11:15-17: Then they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves; and He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple. And He began to teach and say to them, "Is it not written, '*My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a robbers' den*."

--V. 18: The chief priests and the scribes heard this, and began *seeking how to destroy Him*; for they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching.

--A great irony among God's people: They didn't want **GOD** around **THEIR** sanctuary!!!
--What was wrong with "church"??? They didn't want Jesus **MESSING** up their worship **SERVICE**!!!

--Ezekiel 9:3 Then *the glory of the God of Israel went up* from the cherub on which it had been, *to the threshold of the temple*.

--10:4, 18-19: Now the cherubim were standing on the right side of the temple…and the cloud filled the inner court. Then *the glory of the Lord went up* from *the cherub to the threshold of the temple*, and the temple was filled with the cloud and *the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the Lord*…Then *the glory of the Lord departed from the threshold of the temple* and stood over the cherubim. When the cherubim departed, they lifted their wings and rose up from the earth in my sight…and they stood still at the entrance of the *east gate of the Lord's house*, and the glory of the God of Israel hovered over them.

--11:22-23: Then the cherubim lifted up their wings…and the glory of the God of Israel hovered over them. *The glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city* and stood over the mountain which is *east of the city*.

--II Chron 6:13-14, 18-19: Now Solomon had made a bronze platform, five cubits long, five cubits wide and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court; and he stood on it, knelt on his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven. He said, "O Lord, the God of Israel, there is no god like You in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart…"But will God indeed dwell with

mankind on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house which I have built. Yet have regard to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to listen to the cry and to the prayer which Your servant prays before You…

--7:1-3: Now when Solomon had finished praying, *fire came down from heaven* and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and *the glory of the Lord filled the house*. The priests *could not enter into the house of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord's house*. All the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the Lord upon the house, *bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the Lord*, saying, "Truly He is good, truly His lovingkindness is everlasting."

--Rev 12:10-11: "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. And *they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb* and because of *the word of their testimony*, *and they did not love their life even when faced with death*.

--Questions:

--Can *you* live without His presence? When you go to church and sing, "I'm *desperate* for You!!!"…or songs that say, "I will make room for You…*to do whatever You want to*!"…*are you telling to truth*?

--Is He the very *air* that you breathe??? → Or…can you do just fine without Him *really* showing up?

--As you think of all the things in your life…what is it that you *can't* live *without*???

--Have you come to the point where you can honestly say…Lord…I can live without a *lot* of things…but…if You don't manifest Your very presence in my life…*I can't survive!!!*"???

--Can you honestly say to God: "Lord…take *anything* from me…but…whatever You do…*don't leave me without Your presence in my life*!!!"???