

Title: Throwing Down Idols

Reading: 2 Cor. 5: 6-21

Key Scripture: Judges 16:23-30; 2 Cor. 5:7-9

I. Idols Cast Down

A. Samson, A Case Study in Idolatry

1. The Cast
2. Description
3. Tragic Hero?

B. The Visual

1. The Passage (Judges 16:23-30 ESV)
2. Dagon cast down
3. God is the star of the story

C. Samson, a Slave to His Desires

1. Idol of Pleasure/Comfort
2. We do not control the idol; the idol controls us.
3. Pro. 13:15-16; Gal. 6:6-8
4. In the end, Samson exhibits faith.

II. Means of Grace

A. The Scalpel of God's Word

1. Scalpel (Heb. 4:12-13)
2. Romans 12:9-21 (Great verses for self-examination in a conflict)

B. The Holy Spirit

1. Don't read Scripture like reading a newspaper.
2. The Holy Spirit seeks to convict us of our sin.

C. The Church

1. Do not be surprised when sinners, sin.
2. Sin always complicates. Righteousness always simplifies. (Rom. 15:14)
3. A mark of a maturing church: accountability.

III. The Gospel-Centered Motive for Change (2 Cor. 5:7-9)  
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A. The Danger of Trying to Please God

1. Keeping the list is not the way to please God.
2. Legalism is law, not grace. (Isa. 64:6)
3. To please God means to accept the work of the Son on our behalf. (Mk. 1:11)

B. What can please God?

1. Forward by faith (Heb. 11:6)
2. Is God pleased by obedience?
3. Obedience is the biblical response from a person who is trusting Christ. (2 Cor. 5:9)
  - a. I trust God.
  - b. God is pleased that I trust Him.
  - c. Because I trust Him, I obey Him.
4. Warning: If you are not daily affected by Christ's finished work on the cross you can subtly slip into an obedience lifestyle thinking that what you do pleases God as though there is some kind of merit you can achieve through your obedience.

C. Gospel-motivated obedience

1. Jesus assumes you love him; therefore obedience is the outcome. (Jn. 14:15)
2. The Bible connects practical obedience to the gospel.
  - a. Gospel Motivated Mercy-Matt. 18:32-33
  - b. Gospel-Motivated Forgiveness-Eph. 4:31-32
  - c. Gospel-Motivated Love-Eph. 5:25
  - d. Gospel-Motivated Humility-1 Tim. 1:15-16
  - e. Gospel-Motivated Suffering-1 Pe. 2:21

D. Obedience Must be Connected to the Gospel

1. The gospel is not just for salvation (justification)
2. The gospel is the power we need to live for Christ (sanctification)

2 Corinthians 5:9

