

Just a few thoughts upon today's Bible class, Flee from idols, as above.

What is an idol? An idol is a thing worshipped it can be an object, natural like a tree, vast like the ocean or sky, even the heavens. It can be a carving or construction or even a person or group of people. The common factor is they are not God.

Biblical references in Jeremiah 10 vs1-15 and Psalm 115 vs 4-8 speak of their being made by men out of gold, silver and wood. It also reminds the readers that such images have no power. They cannot speak, hear or move. Elijah in 1 Kings 18 in his challenge to the priests of Baal urged them to make greater effort to evoke a response from their false god saying: Cry aloud, either he is talking or he is pursuing, maybe he cannot hear you or is in a journey, perhaps he is asleep (see vs 27), basically mocking their belief in such false things. Sadly they persisted in their misguided belief and put themselves into a religious frenzy cutting themselves. Such actions were fruitless as nothing happened, their god was an illusion/make believe and, as our previous two references (Jeremiah 10 and Psalm115) clearly outlined, they had no life.

To flee from such things should be easy? yet the Bible emphasises the need to do this very thing indicating that the action is not as easy as might be first thought. Consider how much of the world's population pursues the veneration of public figures, ideologies, even false doctrines of behaviour to the point where ungodliness becomes the rule of the day, everyone is doing it or are allowing those things to go unchecked. In addition we can be constantly bombarded by temptations or just be in danger of being overwhelmed by everyone else doing it; keeping to God's ways gets more difficult all the time.

I will finish with a final consideration. Scripture says *Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof* reminding us to take every day carefully and try not to be overcome. Instead Revelations exhorts regarding dealing with accomplishing good things, *to him that overcometh will I give...* the rewards listed in the letters to the seven Ecclesias.

Brother Michael