

American Idolatry

Series 1-20

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## **Introduction to American Idolatry**

### **Why This Series Matters and Why Laodicea Needs a Gut Punch**

You ever notice how Americans puff out their chests and brag, *“We don’t bow to idols. That’s those pagans overseas. That’s ancient history—stone statues, golden calves, temples full of monkeys and cobras. Not us. We’re modern. We’re enlightened. We’re Christians.”* Hogwash. America is crawling with idols—sleeker, shinier, and sneakier than anything Baal or Molech ever dreamed of.

The only difference between America and ancient Israel is the packaging. Israel bowed to a golden calf; America bows to a glowing screen. Israel offered children to Molech; America aborts them for convenience. Israel danced around Ashtoreth poles; America dances in nightclubs and TikToks. Same idolatry—just Wi-Fi enabled.

The Lord said in Exodus 20:3, *“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”* And America replied, *“We’ll have about twenty, thank you very much.”* That’s why this series matters. Because the church isn’t just flirting with idols anymore—it’s shackled up with them, married to them, and tithing to them while Jesus Christ is left outside the door knocking like a homeless man.

### **Why This Series Cuts Deep**

I didn’t write this to tickle ears. I didn’t write this so you can sip coffee and nod politely while I list cultural problems like some seminary egghead. This series is a sword, not a scalpel. It’s meant to cut. To expose. To make Laodicea squirm. Because idols don’t come down politely—they’ve got to be smashed. Gideon didn’t file a complaint with city hall; he tore down his father’s altar to Baal with a sledgehammer (Judges 6). Josiah didn’t blog about reform; he broke altars, ground idols to dust, and scattered the ashes (2 Kings 23). That’s the spirit behind this series.

Don't expect me to say what you want to hear. Expect me to say what the Book says. And if it stings, good—it means you've still got nerves in your soul.

### **Idolatry in a Suit and Tie**

Now here's the trick with American idolatry: it doesn't always look pagan. Sometimes it wears a suit, carries a Bible, and stands in a pulpit. Sometimes it waves an American flag. Sometimes it runs a "Christian" record label. Sometimes it hides behind buzzwords like "tolerance," "inclusion," or "self-care."

That's the danger. If the idol showed up with horns and pitchforks, even Laodicea might resist. But when it shows up dressed like an angel of light, they roll out the red carpet. Paul warned us in 2 Corinthians 11:14: *"For Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."* If Satan can masquerade as light, don't you think his idols can?

### **Why the Church Is Powerless**

You want to know why American Christianity is lukewarm, powerless, and ignored by the world? It isn't because the gospel changed. It isn't because God retired. It's because the church traded Christ for idols. She swapped preaching for politics, worship for entertainment, truth for tolerance, holiness for health, faith for feelings, and discipleship for digital clout.

You can't expect the power of Pentecost while bowing to the idols of Babylon. You can't expect revival while hugging idols to your chest. Elijah didn't see fire fall on Mount Carmel until the prophets of Baal were exposed and their altar destroyed. You want God's fire? Smash the idols first.

### **Why It Will Cost You**

Let me warn you now: smashing idols isn't free. Gideon nearly got lynched by his own neighbors for tearing down Baal's altar. Stephen got stoned for exposing Israel's idolatry. Paul got beaten, jailed, and shipwrecked for preaching Christ instead of idols. And Jesus Christ Himself got crucified because He refused to bow to the traditions of men.

So if you stand with this series—if you actually live it—you will be hated. By the world, yes. But more painfully, by professing Christians. The harshest enemies of idol-smashers are always the religious crowd who love their idols more than their Lord. Brace yourself.

## **Christ Versus America**

At the heart of this series is one question: Who's on the throne? Christ or America's idols?

- You can't serve Christ and politics.
- You can't serve Christ and mammon.
- You can't serve Christ and the Pope.
- You can't serve Christ and entertainment.
- You can't serve Christ and tolerance.
- You can't serve Christ and self.
- You can't serve Christ and clout.

*"No man can serve two masters."* (Matthew 6:24). Laodicea is trying to prove Jesus wrong, and it's failing miserably. The idols are winning in pulpits, pews, and households. That's why this message is urgent.

## **The Final Call**

This series isn't about self-improvement. It isn't about being a "better Christian." It's about survival. Spiritual survival. Because judgment is coming. Revelation 18 shows Babylon falling, and the merchants of the earth weeping as their idols crash into the dirt. That's America's future if she doesn't repent.

The question isn't whether the idols will fall. They will. The question is: will you be clinging to them when they do?

So here's the call: smash the idols. Tear them down like Gideon. Burn them like Josiah. Repent like Nineveh. Choose Christ alone. Because when the music fades, when the flags burn, when the screens go dark, when the idols crumble, the only One left standing will be the Lord Jesus Christ.

And He doesn't share His throne with idols.

## **American Idolatry – Bowing to the Wrong Gods**

### **Part 1 of 20: The Idol of Politics – Trading the Cross for the Ballot Box**

#### **Introduction – The Ballot Box Altar**

Let me tell you something, buddy: Christians in America have turned voting booths into altars. Every four years they march in like Pharisees with their voter registration card in one hand and their Bible—closed, mind you—in the other. They pull a lever, push a button, or scribble in a bubble, and they walk out thinking they’ve done their spiritual duty. They call it “saving America.” The problem? They confuse patriotism with holiness, ballots with the blood, and candidates with Christ.

You couldn’t have convinced Paul the Apostle that the kingdom of God depended on Caesar. You couldn’t have convinced Elijah that Israel would be saved if Ahab would just appoint a “good cabinet.” Yet in America today, pulpits roar louder for politicians than they do for preachers of righteousness. Sermons sound more like campaign speeches than gospel preaching. The cross has been swapped for the flag, the hymnal replaced with the national anthem, and congregations bow to candidates the way Israel once bowed to Baal.

#### **Israel Wanted a King**

You want a Bible example? Try 1 Samuel 8. Israel cried out, “Make us a king, to judge us like all the nations.” God told Samuel, “They have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.” There you have it. Rejecting God for a man. Trading the invisible King of glory for a flesh-and-blood ruler you can see on a stage.

And brother, that’s America in a nutshell. Churches crying out for a king. “Give us a conservative! Give us a strong leader! Give us someone who will protect our rights!” And the Lord says, “You’ve rejected me.” They’ll argue until they’re blue in the face about tax cuts, foreign policy, or Supreme Court appointments, but they can’t find the book of Zephaniah if you spotted them the table of contents.

#### **Manufactured Messiahs**

Look at the way Americans treat their candidates. Campaign posters are plastered like icons. Faces beam down from billboards like saints on stained glass. Campaign rallies look more like revival meetings than tent revivals ever did. People line up by the thousands,

waving banners, crying tears, singing songs of praise, shouting “Four more years!” like a congregation crying “Amen!”

And don’t think for a second the Lord is fooled by it. He sees the worship. He sees the idolatry. The devil doesn’t care if you worship Baal, Buddha, or a ballot box—so long as you’re not worshiping Christ.

### **The Preacher’s Pulpit Becomes the Politician’s Platform**

I’ve sat in churches where the pulpit became nothing more than a political stump. Preachers swapped out the gospel for get-out-the-vote drives. Invitations were replaced with voter registration tables. Sermons were less about Calvary and more about candidates. And the people soaked it in. They cheered their preacher when he blasted “the libs,” but they yawned when he preached about hell. They gave standing ovations for “family values,” but they fell asleep when Christ’s blood was mentioned.

Let me make it plain: that’s idolatry. The pulpit is for preaching the Book, not stumping for some flesh-and-blood politician. When you turn the church into a campaign headquarters, you’ve traded the Holy Ghost for a party platform.

### **Patriotism vs. Christianity**

Don’t get me wrong—I love America. I thank God for the freedoms we’ve had. I’m grateful for the men who laid down their lives in battle. But don’t you confuse patriotism with Christianity. Patriotism can make you a good citizen, but it’ll never make you a child of God. A flag can wave over your coffin, but only the blood of Christ can keep you out of hell.

Some of you have more passion for the Constitution than you do for the Scriptures. You’ve memorized the Bill of Rights but can’t quote five verses in Romans. You’ll fight to the death for the Second Amendment but won’t lift a finger to defend the cross of Christ. That’s idolatry—loving country above Christ, exalting the Constitution above the Book.

### **When Christians Bow**

Let’s face it—American Christians bow to their candidates the same way Israel bowed to the golden calf. Aaron took the gold, melted it, formed a calf, and the people shouted, “These be thy gods, O Israel!” Today, Christians slap a bumper sticker on their car, hang a flag in their yard, and shout, “This is our savior! He’ll save America!”

But Moses came down that mountain with fire in his eyes. He smashed the idol and drew a line in the sand: “Who is on the Lord’s side?” That’s still the question today. Not, “Who are you voting for?” but “Who is on the Lord’s side?”

### **The Hypocrisy of the Booth**

Here’s the hypocrisy of it all: Christians will pray before they go into the booth, as if God Himself is waiting to anoint their ballot. They’ll say things like, “Lord, guide my vote.” Guide your vote? The Lord already guided you with sixty-six books. He told you to win souls, preach the gospel, live holy, and look for the blessed hope—not to pin your salvation on some smooth-talking senator.

Do you think Paul prayed before casting a vote for Caesar? There weren’t any ballots in Rome, but there were plenty of chances to compromise—and Paul never bowed the knee. His loyalty was to Christ alone.

### **The Cost of Confusion**

And what’s the cost of this confusion? Souls. While Christians are busy marching to the polls, lost sinners are marching to hell. While churches are waving campaign signs, their neighbors are dying without the gospel. While preachers thunder about tax codes, nobody’s thundering about the lake of fire. That’s the cost. That’s the tragedy. That’s the idol.

### **Real Change Comes Only Through Christ**

The problem isn’t in Washington; it’s in the human heart. And no politician can fix that. Laws don’t regenerate men. Court rulings don’t cleanse the soul. Tax breaks don’t bring revival. Only Christ can change a man, and only the gospel can change a nation.

But Christians don’t believe that anymore. They believe if they just get their guy in office, everything will be alright. That’s idolatry. That’s bowing to men instead of God.

### **Conclusion – Smash the Idol**

So here's the line in the sand. Stop bowing to politics. Stop worshiping at the booth. Stop trading the cross for the ballot. If you want to be a good citizen, fine—vote, pay your taxes, obey the law. But don't you dare confuse that with Christianity.

America doesn't need another candidate. America doesn't need another election. America doesn't need another Senate resolution. America needs old-fashioned preaching, blood-bought salvation, and Bible-believing Christians who will stand for Christ even if the whole country goes to hell in a handbasket.

Who's on the Lord's side? That's the only question that matters.

## Part 2 of 20 - The Idol of Media – Screens as Glowing Altars

### **Introduction – The New Pulpit**

Let me tell you something, buddy: the biggest pulpits in America today don't sit behind wooden lecterns in Baptist churches. They sit in living rooms on top of TV stands and hang on walls. They glow, they flicker, and they preach twenty-four hours a day without ever taking a breath. They don't need hymnals, they don't need choirs, they don't even need offerings. They've already got your attention, your time, and your money.

That screen in your house has become an altar. It glows like a stained-glass window, and the faithful sit down every night to watch their favorite priests in suits and makeup deliver the evening homily. Some of you call it “the news,” some of you call it “entertainment,” but heaven calls it **idolatry**.

### **The TV as an Altar**

You doubt it? Look at how folks treat their televisions. They sit down, remote in hand, like Catholics fingering rosary beads. They hush their kids when the broadcast begins. They tune in religiously—yes, religiously—every night at six. They hang on every word of their media messiahs as if Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John had taken jobs at NBC.

And when the “anchor” clears his throat, the worshippers lean in. That's their preacher. That's their priest. That's their prophet. They believe every word, repeat it the next day like Scripture, and build their lives on it. That glowing box has become the altar of America.

### **News Anchors as Priests**

The devil doesn't need a pulpit in every town anymore. He's got news anchors. Sharp suits, polished hair, serious voices. They don't preach "Thus saith the Lord"—they preach "Sources confirm." And Americans bow their heads and believe it.

The words of Lester Holt, Anderson Cooper, or Sean Hannity are treated with more reverence than the words of Paul, Peter, or John. Folks don't quote the Bible anymore—they quote CNN, Fox News, or the New York Times. "Well, I heard on the news..." has replaced "It is written."

That's idolatry. When the voice of a news anchor carries more weight than the voice of God, you've built yourself a golden calf out of pixels and cables.

### **The Talk-Show Host as Pastor**

And don't get me started on talk-show hosts. The late-night crowd has their own kind of congregation. People laugh when they laugh, clap when they clap, think what they tell them to think. It's church for the godless. Jimmy Kimmel, Stephen Colbert, Trevor Noah—they're not comedians; they're priests of Baal cracking jokes to keep the sheep in line.

And on the conservative side, don't think you're off the hook. Tucker Carlson, Charlie Kirk, Ben Shapiro—these men have bigger congregations than most megachurch pastors. People watch them every night, take notes, share the clips, and then march into church on Sunday with their heads full of talking points instead of Scripture.

That's not discipleship—that's idolatry. You've swapped the voice of the Holy Ghost for the voice of a commentator.

### **The Social Media Screen**

Now it's not just the television. It's the phone in your hand, glowing in the dark, feeding you sermons one swipe at a time. TikTok preachers, YouTube prophets, Instagram evangelists. You think you're just scrolling, but you're worshipping. The screen is discipling you faster than the church ever did.

Kids can quote memes but not memory verses. They know viral dances but not the Ten Commandments. They've memorized the latest conspiracy, the newest Netflix plot twist, the funniest TikTok sound—but they can't find the book of Hosea if their life depended on it.

That's not just ignorance—it's worship. They've bowed before the idol of media, and it owns them.

### **The Devil's Strategy**

Don't you know the devil is behind this? Paul said in Ephesians 2:2 that the devil is "the prince of the power of the air." What's running through the air today? Broadcasts. Signals. Wi-Fi. Streaming services. You think it's coincidence the devil runs the airwaves? Not a chance. That screen is his pulpit, his microphone, his altar.

And Christians eat it up. They'll spend three hours a night watching the world preach to them but won't spend ten minutes reading the Book. They'll binge-watch Netflix all weekend but won't darken the door of a prayer meeting. They'll stay up late for a talk show but can't stay awake for a sermon. That's idolatry, plain and simple.

### **The Bible vs. the Broadcast**

Here's the contrast: The Bible says, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). The media says, "Truth is whatever we tell you it is tonight." The Bible says, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). The media says, "Faith cometh by watching, and watching by the word of the screen."

And you wonder why Christians are powerless. They've been catechized by Fox News instead of Romans, disciplined by CNN instead of Ephesians, indoctrinated by TikTok instead of Proverbs. Their faith isn't built on the Rock—it's built on the broadcast.

### **The Cycle of Worship**

And watch how the worship cycle goes. The anchor speaks, the crowd reacts, the social media timeline floods, and the whole world moves in lockstep. That's worship. That's a liturgy. Only difference is, instead of hymns, it's hashtags. Instead of Scripture reading, it's soundbites. Instead of prayers, it's likes and shares.

You think you're "informed"? No—you're indoctrinated. You're worshipping at the glowing altar, bowing to the idol of media.

### **The Preacher's Warning**

Preachers used to warn their flocks about sin, hell, judgment, and the cross. Now preachers spend half their time echoing what they saw on Fox News or CNN the night before. Instead of “Thus saith the Lord,” it’s “As Tucker said last night.” Instead of opening the Book, they’re opening Twitter.

That’s idolatry. The pulpit should never play second fiddle to the screen. The preacher should be the voice crying in the wilderness, not a parrot for cable news.

### **The Call to Smash the Screen**

Now don’t misunderstand me—I’m not saying smash your TV set with a hammer (though some of you probably should). I’m saying smash the idol in your heart. Stop treating the news like it’s the Bible. Stop treating talk-show hosts like prophets. Stop letting your phone disciple you more than Christ does.

Turn it off. Open the Book. Spend as much time in Scripture as you do on screens, and you’ll see the difference. The glow of the screen can’t match the light of the Word.

### **Conclusion – Choose Your Altar**

So here’s the line in the sand again: which altar are you bowing before? The glowing screen, or the old rugged cross? The talk-show host, or the risen Christ? The news anchor, or the Word of God?

You can’t serve two masters. You can’t binge Netflix and binge the Bible at the same time. You can’t drink from the fountain of CNN and the fountain of living water at once. You’ve got to choose.

And the day you stop bowing to the glowing altar of media is the day you’ll find your faith strengthened, your discernment sharpened, and your loyalty realigned—not with Fox, not with CNN, not with YouTube, but with Jesus Christ Himself.

Smash the idol. Turn off the screen. Bow to Christ alone.

### **Part 3 of 20: The Idol of Rome – Evangelicals Applauding the Pope and Longing for a Golden Age under Mystery Babylon**

Let me tell you something, buddy: if you want proof that the church age is circling the drain and Laodicea is in full bloom, look no further than the love affair American evangelicals have with the Pope. Not just Catholics—evangelicals. Men who claim to be Bible-believers, who wave a King James Bible in one hand on Sunday morning and then clap for Rome on Monday morning. They talk about revival, they talk about unity, they talk about “a new golden age of Christianity,” and then they line up to kiss the ring of a man the Bible calls a liar, a blasphemer, and a counterfeit. If that isn’t idolatry, nothing is.

Now you listen to me: there’s no such thing as a golden age under Rome. There’s no such thing as revival when the Pope is at the helm. There’s no such thing as true Christianity when Mystery Babylon is running the show. Revelation 17 doesn’t paint the Pope as Peter’s successor; it paints him as the harlot riding the beast, drunk with the blood of the saints. And yet, here come the evangelicals, clapping like trained seals, wagging their tails, and drooling for a pat on the head from the Vatican. It’s the greatest delusion of our time.

The idol of Rome has been polished and paraded for centuries. They’ve dressed it up in robes, crowns, incense, choirs, candles, and Latin chants. They call him “Holy Father.” They call him “Vicar of Christ.” They march their little boys in to be altar servants, they bow their heads when he waves from the balcony, they buy his trinkets in Vatican gift shops. That’s bad enough. But now you’ve got Baptists, Pentecostals, charismatics, and evangelicals bowing just as low. They’ve taken the idol of Rome and planted it right in the middle of the Protestant camp.

Why? Because they want acceptance. Because they want influence. Because they want a seat at the table when the world crowns the Antichrist. You mark it down: any preacher that applauds the Pope is a Benedict Arnold against the cross of Christ. He’s a traitor, he’s a compromiser, and he’s leading his people straight into the arms of the whore of Babylon.

Let me remind you what Rome is. Rome is not Christianity. Rome is not the church. Rome is not the Bride of Christ. Rome is a religious empire built on murder, money, and manipulation. She burned Bible believers alive by the millions. She strangled the gospel with sacraments. She replaced salvation by grace through faith with salvation by wafers, beads, and holy water. She built cathedrals with blood money, she raped nations with crusades, she slaughtered Jews and Protestants alike, and then she had the audacity to declare herself the “one true church.” That’s not Christianity. That’s paganism with a cross stamped on it.

And yet here come evangelicals—men who claim to believe the Book—swooning over Rome like a teenage girl with a rock star. They go to Rome for “dialogue.” They sit in conferences with priests. They pray for the Pope’s health and leadership. They tweet out

that the Pope might lead us into a “new golden age of Christianity.” Buddy, if the Pope is leading you into a golden age, then Judas is your pastor and Cain is your worship leader.

The golden age they dream about is not revival; it’s Revelation. It’s not Pentecost; it’s perdition. The only “golden” in Rome’s future is the cup in the hand of the whore in Revelation 17, full of abominations and filthiness. And yet evangelicals are lapping it up like pigs at a trough.

Why does it happen? Because men worship influence more than truth. They worship crowds more than Christ. They worship visibility more than victory. The Pope gets applause from presidents, prime ministers, billionaires, and celebrities. He gets airtime on CNN. He gets photos in Time magazine. He gets hailed as the “moral conscience of the world.” And evangelicals look at that and think, “Wow, maybe if we cozy up to him, we’ll be taken seriously too.” So they bow, they compromise, they betray the Book for a handshake with the whore.

Listen, you can’t serve two masters. You can’t serve the Book and Rome. You can’t exalt the Pope and Christ. You can’t bow to the Vatican and the cross. The two are enemies. One leads to heaven, one leads to hell. One preaches salvation by grace, one damns souls with works. One exalts Christ alone, one exalts Mary, the mass, and man-made tradition. If you can’t see the difference, you’re spiritually blind, biblically illiterate, or just flat-out dishonest.

Now, what’s the cost of all this? Souls. Millions of souls have been damned because men trusted Rome instead of Christ. Millions more will be damned if evangelicals keep propping her up. And every time a preacher applauds the Pope, he adds fuel to the fire of delusion. He tells his people, “It’s okay. Rome isn’t so bad. We can work together.” And the next thing you know, those people are praying to saints, lighting candles, kissing statues, and trusting a wafer to save them. That’s not Christianity—that’s idolatry.

I’ll tell you what Rome is: Rome is the counterfeit bride. She’s dressed in fine linen, but she’s a harlot. She waves a golden cup, but it’s full of filth. She rides a beast, but it’s headed for destruction. She looks holy, but she’s hellish. She looks unified, but she’s divided against Christ. And the evangelicals who cozy up to her are like blind men hugging a rattlesnake and calling it a teddy bear.

The Bible warned us. 2 Thessalonians 2 says there will be a falling away. Revelation 17 says the kings of the earth will commit fornication with her. Revelation 18 says, “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins.” And yet, instead of coming out, evangelicals are rushing in. They’re building bridges to Babylon instead of tearing them down. They’re making peace with hell instead of fighting it. They’re handing their

congregations over to a religious system that murdered their forefathers. And they call it progress.

You know what it really is? It's idolatry. It's man worship. It's bowing before the idol of Rome because it shines, it sparkles, and it's popular. But the God of heaven calls it fornication. He calls it harlotry. He calls it abomination. And He's going to judge it. Revelation 18 says, "Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire." That's the golden age evangelicals are applauding—a golden age of smoke, fire, and brimstone falling on the head of Mystery Babylon.

And here's the sad part: when the judgment falls, the evangelicals who cozied up to Rome will go down with her. They'll be like Jehoshaphat, who yoked up with Ahab and nearly got killed for it. They'll be like Lot, sitting in Sodom, loving the comfort, hating the confrontation, and losing it all when the fire falls. They'll be like Demas, who forsook Paul, having loved this present world. And when Christ calls His true church out, they'll be left clutching their idol, kissing the Pope's ring while the fire rains down.

That's why I'm telling you now: smash the idol. Don't applaud the Pope. Don't long for a golden age under Rome. Don't betray the Book for a handshake with Babylon. Stand where your forefathers stood. Preach what the martyrs preached. Believe what the Book says. And if it costs you your reputation, your influence, your friends, or even your life—so be it. Better to be despised with Christ than applauded with Rome.

The idol of Rome is alive and well in America today. Evangelicals are polishing it, parading it, and bowing before it. But the Bible-believer doesn't bow. He doesn't clap. He doesn't applaud. He takes his hammer, smashes the idol, and cries, "Thus saith the Lord." And when the smoke clears, when Babylon burns, when the harlot falls, he'll be standing with Christ—crowned, vindicated, and forever free from the filth of Rome.

So who's on the Lord's side? That's the only question that matters. Not, "Who's the Pope this week?" Not, "What did the evangelicals say on Twitter?" Not, "How can we build unity with Rome?" No. Who's on the Lord's side? That's the line. And brother, I'll die on this side of it before I ever cross over to bow to the idol of Rome.

#### **4 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Money**

***Mammon Worship: Prosperity Gospel, Church Budgets Over Souls, Wall Street Gods***

If you want to know who America's real god is, just follow the money. You can keep your statues, your crosses around your necks, your bumper stickers, and your "God Bless America" signs. None of it matters if the almighty dollar sits on the throne of your heart. And let me tell you, buddy, for most Americans—including Christians—it does. They don't worship Christ; they worship cash. They don't serve God; they serve Mammon. And the Book is clear: *Ye cannot serve God and Mammon* (Matthew 6:24). Not "maybe," not "sometimes," not "if you balance it right." No—you cannot. Period.

Yet in America, Mammon is the national deity. It's printed right on our money: *In God We Trust*. Which god? Not the God of the Bible, that's for sure. If we really trusted Jehovah, we wouldn't need to plaster His name across green paper to make ourselves feel spiritual. No, the "god" America trusts is the same one sitting in the vaults of Wall Street and the banks of the Federal Reserve. The golden calf is alive and well, only now it's shaped like a dollar sign.

### **The Prosperity Gospel – Turning Pulpits into ATMs**

Nowhere is this idolatry more obvious than in the prosperity gospel movement. These slick-haired charlatans strut across million-dollar stages in thousand-dollar suits, waving Bibles they don't believe, shouting promises God never made. "Sow your seed! Name it and claim it! Send your money to my ministry and God will bless you a hundredfold!" And the gullible lap it up.

They've turned pulpits into ATMs. They've turned prayer into a Ponzi scheme. They've turned faith into a financial investment strategy. And Christians—Laodicean Christians—line up to bow before the idol, chanting "Amen" as if God's blessings were tied to their bank account.

Buddy, if money was the measure of spirituality, Judas would've been the greatest disciple of them all. He had the bag. He carried the cash. But he was a devil. And these prosperity preachers are cut from the same cloth—devils in Armani suits, serving Mammon while pretending to serve Christ.

### **Church Budgets Over Souls**

It doesn't stop with prosperity preachers. Even so-called Bible-believing churches have sold out to the idol of money. Pastors care more about budgets than souls. The deacons care more about offerings than orphans. The committee cares more about building funds than the Book.

I've sat in business meetings where men argued for hours about how to spend church money, but not ten minutes about how to win souls. I've watched churches cut missionaries because the numbers didn't add up, all while dropping hundreds of thousands on new sound systems, fancy lights, and remodeling the fellowship hall. They'll mortgage their buildings to look impressive but won't sacrifice a dime to get the gospel around the world.

That's idolatry. That's Mammon worship. They bow at the altar of the budget spreadsheet, and they call it stewardship. Hogwash. It's cowardice dressed up in business terms. The Bible says, *Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.* But the Laodicean church says, "Seek ye first the building fund, and hope righteousness tags along for the ride."

### **Wall Street Gods**

And then, of course, you've got the secular side—Wall Street, the stock market, the Fortune 500. The world bows before its golden bull at the New York Stock Exchange the way Israel bowed to the golden calf at Sinai. It's the same idol, just with a new coat of paint. They track it, chart it, predict it, worship it, and panic when it dips.

Men wake up at five in the morning to check the markets but can't roll out of bed to read a chapter of Proverbs. They'll pour over investment strategies, mutual funds, crypto portfolios, and retirement plans, but they won't give ten minutes to prayer. Their god is money. Their altar is the trading floor. Their priests are stockbrokers and financial analysts. Their temples are skyscrapers in Manhattan.

And you know what the Lord says about it? *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows* (1 Timothy 6:10). Every Ponzi scheme, every Wall Street crash, every busted economy, every broken family—it all ties back to the idol of money.

### **The Hypocrisy of American Christians**

And what about American Christians? They're no better. They tithe when it's tax deductible, they give when it's convenient, and they sacrifice only when it doesn't cut into their vacation fund. They'll scream about abortion at the ballot box but won't give a dime to the crisis pregnancy center in their town. They'll wave flags on the Fourth of July but won't support a missionary on the front lines.

Their priorities are upside down because their god is upside down. They think the Christian life is about balancing faith with financial security. Let me tell you something: there's no balance when it comes to idols. If Mammon is on the throne, Christ isn't. Period. You can't serve two masters.

### **When Money Runs the Church**

Look at the average American church. Money runs everything. Who gets hired? Follow the budget. What ministries get cut? Follow the budget. What sermons get preached? Follow the giving trends. If the pastor preaches too hard, the offerings dip, and the deacons get nervous. So what does he do? He softens it. He preaches smoother. He lays off the hot topics. Why? Because money rules the roost.

The fear of losing tithes is the noose around the neck of the Laodicean pastor. And the devil tightens it every Sunday. That's why you don't hear about hell anymore. That's why you don't hear about separation anymore. That's why you don't hear about the blood anymore. Because if you did, half the pews would empty and half the offerings would vanish. So the pastor sells out Christ for cash. Judas all over again.

### **Jesus vs. Mammon**

The Lord Himself drew the line. He didn't mince words. *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.* But that's exactly what Americans do. They lay it up. They hoard. They stash. They invest. They insure. And they call it wisdom.

The Lord said, *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.* That's foreign language to Laodiceans. They can't comprehend it. They think heaven's portfolio is measured in retirement accounts. But the real treasure is souls saved, lives changed, crowns earned, and rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ. You can't buy that with silver or gold.

### **The Trap of Comfort**

You know why Mammon is such a strong idol in America? Because it makes people comfortable. And comfort is the drug of Laodicea. They don't want to suffer. They don't want to sacrifice. They don't want to give. They want padded pews, air-conditioned sanctuaries, and smooth preaching. And all of it runs on money.

So they bow to it. They worship it. They serve it. And when the Lord looks down, He doesn't see Christianity—He sees a marketplace. He sees the money changers in the temple, buying and selling in His Father's house. And you know what He did to them? He made a whip and drove them out. He overturned their tables. He scattered their coins. And He declared, *My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.*

### **The Call to Repent**

So what's the answer? Repent. Smash the idol. Stop bowing to the almighty dollar. Start giving sacrificially, not just conveniently. Start trusting God's promises, not your portfolio. Start prioritizing souls over savings, missionaries over mortgages, the gospel over gold.

The only cure for Mammon worship is to put Christ back on the throne. To recognize that He owns it all, He gave it all, and He deserves it all. To live like Paul, who said, *I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.* That's the opposite of America. America is never content. And that's why she's drowning in idolatry.

### **Conclusion – Choose Your Master**

So here's the bottom line: you can serve God, or you can serve Mammon. But you can't serve both. If money is your idol, Christ isn't your Lord. If Mammon rules your church, the Holy Ghost doesn't. If the dollar sits on your throne, Jesus doesn't.

The idol of money is killing America, killing churches, and killing Christians. And until God's people smash that idol and bow to Christ alone, revival will never come. Not in your heart, not in your home, not in your church, not in your nation.

So smash the idol. Break the golden calf. Throw down the dollar sign. And stand with the Book, the blood, and the blessed hope. Because when the smoke clears and the fire falls, Mammon will burn with the rest of the idols—but Christ will remain forever.

### **5 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Self**

**Narcissism, “Self-Love Gospel,” and the Laodicean Church Saying, “I Am Rich”**

If there's one idol more rotten than all the rest in Laodicea, it's the one staring back at folks in the bathroom mirror every morning. Forget golden calves, forget glowing TV screens, forget even the Pope's ring—today's idol of choice is self. America has become a nation of Narcissuses, drooling over their own reflections, snapping selfies by the millions, plastering their faces across social media like shrines in a digital temple. And the tragedy is, the church has followed right behind them.

Buddy, the idol of self is the ugliest idol of all, because it doesn't just sit in a cathedral or a courthouse. It doesn't need a priest, a pope, or a politician to polish it. It sits inside the human heart. And the Book says, *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?* (Jeremiah 17:9). That's the core of the matter. The idol of self is man worshipping man—his own man, his own flesh, his own ego, his own "brand." And the Laodicean church, instead of smashing that idol, built it a throne.

### **The Gospel of "Me"**

Step into most pulpits today and you won't hear much about Christ anymore. You'll hear about you. "You're valuable. You're special. You're a winner. God just wants you to believe in yourself." That's not preaching, that's motivational speaking with a Bible verse duct-taped to the end.

The "self-love gospel" is sweeping the land. Whole churches are built on it. Pastors in sneakers stand up on Sunday morning and shout, "God wants you to feel good about yourself!" They treat sin like low self-esteem, and salvation like therapy. The cross is reduced to a motivational slogan: "You're worth it."

You're worth it? You're worth nothing but hellfire outside of Christ. That's the truth. The Book says, *In me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing* (Romans 7:18). The Book says, *All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags* (Isaiah 64:6). But Laodicea won't have it. They've swapped out the blood for a mirror. They've turned the pulpit into a pep talk. And their idol is self.

### **"I Am Rich" – The Laodicean Lie**

Revelation 3 paints the picture perfectly. The Lord looks at the church of Laodicea and quotes their boast: *"I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing."* That's the self-idol in one sentence.

Self-sufficient. Self-satisfied. Self-impressed. They've got their buildings, their budgets, their brand. They've got their podcasts, their coffee bars, their gym memberships. They've got their lights, their bands, their social media platforms. They look at all of it and say, "Look at us! We're thriving! We're alive! We're the cutting edge!"

And Jesus Christ looks back and says, "*Thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.*" He sees right through the selfie filters, right through the Instagram smiles, right through the phony worship songs. He sees the idol of self, and He calls it what it is: naked, blind, bankrupt, rotten.

### **Self on the Throne**

The idol of self is more dangerous than any other because it doesn't need an external priesthood. It lives in you. It whispers, "You're right. You're smart. You're good. You don't need correction. You don't need repentance. You just need affirmation."

That's why the self-love gospel is so popular. It doesn't confront sin. It doesn't demand repentance. It doesn't put Christ on the throne. It just polishes the idol of self and tells you to keep bowing. And people love it. They love sermons that tell them they're fine. They love books that promise "your best life now." They love songs that make them feel empowered. And all the while, they're drifting farther from God.

### **Narcissism as a Religion**

Look at America's obsession with narcissism. Billions of selfies uploaded every year. People spending hours posing, editing, filtering, and posting pictures of themselves for worshippers to like and adore. Instagram has become a global temple of self-idolatry. Every like is an "amen." Every comment is a hallelujah. Every follower is another convert to the cult of self.

And don't think the church hasn't joined the circus. Pastors film themselves constantly. "Follow me on TikTok. Like and share my reel. Subscribe to my YouTube channel." Ministry has become marketing. The gospel has become a brand. And Jesus Christ is shoved to the background while men polish their own image. That's idolatry. That's the idol of self.

### **The Devil's Favorite Idol**

Why is this idol so deadly? Because it was the devil's first one. Isaiah 14 shows Lucifer's fall: "*I will ascend...I will exalt...I will sit...I will ascend...I will be like the most High.*" Five "I wills." That's self-worship. That's the idol of self.

And ever since then, the devil has been whispering the same lie into every human ear: "You can be your own god. You can call the shots. You don't need Christ." That's what he told Eve in Genesis 3: "*Ye shall be as gods.*" And she bit—literally. That was the first idol of self, and man's been bowing ever since.

### **Self in the Church**

It's bad enough in the world, but the tragedy is how much of it has infected the church. You've got worship songs that talk more about "me" and "I" than about Christ. You've got sermons built around self-esteem, self-discovery, self-care. You've got Christians who define their walk with God by how they "feel" about themselves instead of what the Book says.

You've got pastors counseling people to "find themselves" instead of losing themselves at the foot of the cross. You've got youth groups teaching kids to "follow your heart" instead of crucifying the flesh. You've got entire conferences built on affirming self instead of denying it. That's not Christianity. That's narcissism with a steeple on top.

### **The Cost of Self-Worship**

What's the fruit of this idolatry? Broken homes, broken churches, broken souls. Marriages crumble because two selfish people can't put the other first. Churches split because self-centered pastors demand control. Christians live defeated lives because they can't deny themselves long enough to take up their cross.

And then they wonder why revival tarries. They wonder why their prayers bounce off the ceiling. They wonder why the Holy Ghost doesn't move. It's because the Spirit of God will never anoint the idol of self. He'll never bless a church that bows to ego. He'll never empower a ministry built on branding. He resists the proud, and gives grace to the humble.

### **The Call to Deny Self**

What did Jesus say? *“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”* Not love himself. Not pamper himself. Not affirm himself. Deny himself. That’s the opposite of Laodicea.

You can’t follow Christ and self at the same time. You can’t take selfies at the foot of the cross. You can’t exalt your brand and His blood. One has to die. Either you crucify self, or self crucifies your walk with God.

### **Practical Self-Idolatry**

Let’s put it where the rubber meets the road. Self-idolatry is when:

- You choose comfort over conviction.
- You choose entertainment over edification.
- You choose ego over obedience.
- You choose image over integrity.

And America is drowning in it. Parents raise spoiled brats because they worship their kids’ self-esteem. Preachers soften truth because they worship their own reputation. Christians chase careers, hobbies, and comforts because they worship their own dreams. It’s all the idol of self.

### **God’s Cure**

The cure is the cross. The only answer to self-worship is crucifixion. Paul said, *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.”* That’s the Christian life. Not “self-love,” but self-crucifixion. Not “self-care,” but Christ-care. Not “believe in yourself,” but believe in Him who loved you and gave Himself for you.

If the idol of self is on the throne, Christ is off it. And until you smash that idol, your Christianity is nothing but smoke and mirrors.

### **Conclusion – Smash the Mirror**

So here’s the line. You can bow to self, or you can bow to Christ. You can worship your reflection, or you can worship your Redeemer. But you can’t do both. The idol of self has

blinded Laodicea. They say, “I am rich, increased with goods, and have need of nothing.” But Jesus says, “You’re poor, blind, naked, and wretched.”

If you want to get right, you’ve got to smash the mirror. Deny yourself. Crucify your flesh. Quit listening to the self-love gospel, and start living the Christ-life gospel. Because in the end, self will damn you, but Christ will save you. Self will blind you, but Christ will open your eyes. Self will bankrupt you, but Christ will make you rich in glory.

So smash the idol. Kill it. Crucify it. And bow to Christ alone.

## **6 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Entertainment**

### **Hollywood and Sports Stadiums Replacing Worship with Spectacle**

Let me tell you something, buddy: if you want to see where Americans really worship, don’t look at the churches on Sunday morning—look at the stadiums on Saturday night. Don’t look at the prayer meetings—look at the movie premieres. Don’t look at the hymnals—look at the Netflix accounts. Entertainment has become the god of America, and Hollywood and the NFL are its twin temples.

The Book says, *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves...lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God”* (2 Timothy 3:1-4). You couldn’t write a more accurate obituary for America if you tried. Lovers of pleasure—that’s the idol of entertainment. And Christians have bowed right along with the world.

### **The Hollywood Temple**

Hollywood is nothing but Baal worship with better graphics. The red carpets are its processions, the Oscars are its sacraments, the celebrities are its priests, and the audiences are its worshippers. Millions bow before the screen every night, soaking in filth, laughing at sin, and imitating idols. They spend billions each year on movies and shows while missionaries scrape pennies to get the gospel across the ocean.

Buddy, the Book says, *“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes”* (Psalm 101:3). And yet Christians binge-watch adultery, murder, cussing, fornication, witchcraft, and sodomy for hours at a time. They wouldn’t let their kids watch it in real life, but if it’s on a glowing screen

with surround sound, suddenly it's "just entertainment." That's not entertainment—that's idolatry.

Hollywood mocks your Savior every chance it gets. They blaspheme His name in scripts, they depict Him as a fool in comedies, they rewrite His story in heresies, and Christians pay money to sit there and laugh. That's worship at the altar of Baal, not Christ.

### **The Stadium Sanctuary**

And then there are the stadiums—massive cathedrals of steel and concrete where Americans gather religiously every weekend. Don't tell me sports isn't a religion. Look at the rituals: the uniforms are vestments, the mascots are idols, the chants are liturgies, the games are ceremonies. The fans chant louder for a touchdown than they ever did for a hymn.

The NFL owns Sunday in America, not Jesus Christ. Churches adjust their service schedules so they don't conflict with the big game. Christians leave early so they don't miss kickoff. And God help the pastor who preaches long during the Super Bowl—you'll lose your congregation faster than you can say "halftime show."

The Book says, "*Thou shalt have no other gods before me*" (Exodus 20:3). But American Christians will bow before a pigskin idol and justify it as "fellowship." They'll paint their faces, wear jerseys, memorize stats, and scream themselves hoarse for men chasing a ball, but they won't whisper an "Amen" when the preacher talks about Calvary. That's idolatry.

### **Worship Through Spectacle**

Entertainment is worship disguised as spectacle. Whether it's a Marvel movie or a Monday Night Football game, it's designed to captivate the heart, stir the emotions, and demand loyalty. That's what worship is supposed to be for Christ. But America gives it to Hollywood and the NFL.

The Book says, "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world*" (1 John 2:15). Entertainment is the world's bait, and Christians swallow it whole. They know more about actors than apostles, more about teams than tribes of Israel, more about movie quotes than memory verses. That's proof the idol is on the throne.

## **The Devil's Distraction**

And don't think the devil doesn't know what he's doing. Bread and circuses were the tools of Rome, and they're the tools of America. Keep the masses fed, keep them entertained, and they won't notice their chains. That's why people know every plot twist of the latest show but don't know where the Book says, "*Ye must be born again.*"

Satan doesn't need you to bow to a statue anymore. All he needs is to keep you glued to a screen, clapping at a stadium, laughing at a sitcom, and too distracted to notice your soul is drying up. He's the master showman, and entertainment is his altar.

## **Christians Bowing With the Crowd**

The tragedy is how many Christians justify it. They say, "It's just harmless fun." Harmless? Tell that to the kids addicted to porn because Hollywood normalized fornication. Tell that to the families torn apart because sports replaced church. Tell that to the churches that can't get men to show up for soul winning but can pack a bus for a ballgame.

Laodicea's pews are full of people more passionate about their entertainment than their eternity. They'll spend hours watching filth but claim they're too busy to read the Bible. They'll shell out hundreds for concert tickets but tip God a five-dollar bill on Sunday. They'll memorize fight songs and movie scripts but can't quote John 3:16 without fumbling. That's not "harmless fun"—that's worship at the wrong altar.

## **Hollywood's False Gospel**

Hollywood even preaches its own gospel. Every movie tells you the same lie in different costumes: man is basically good, love conquers all, and you can be your own savior. That's the gospel of self and sin, not Christ.

And Christians feed on it. They let their kids be discipled by Disney instead of the Book. They let Marvel teach their teens theology instead of Romans. They let sitcoms shape their view of family instead of Ephesians. Then they wonder why their homes are a mess. It's because they've let Hollywood preach louder than the preacher.

## **Sports as Salvation**

And sports—what’s the gospel there? That winning is everything. That your identity is in your team. That glory comes from trophies, rings, and titles. That’s not salvation—that’s idolatry.

Athletes become gods. Their names are revered, their autographs are relics, their jerseys are vestments, their stats are Scripture. And when one of them falls into scandal, the worshippers rush to defend their idol like priests protecting a temple.

### **God’s View of Entertainment**

What does the Lord think of all this? Ecclesiastes 2:2: *“I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?”* He sees the madness. He sees the wasted hours, the empty laughs, the souls starving while the people clap for clowns. Amos 6:1 warns, *“Woe to them that are at ease in Zion.”* That’s Laodicea—fat, lazy, entertained, distracted, and blind.

The Lord’s not impressed with your fantasy leagues, your streaming subscriptions, or your concert tickets. He’s looking for a church that will deny itself, take up the cross, and follow Him. But the average Christian would rather deny Christ, take up the remote, and follow Netflix.

### **Smash the Screens, Burn the Jerseys**

What’s the solution? Smash the idol. Cancel the subscription. Burn the jersey. Put Christ back where He belongs. Entertainment isn’t evil in itself, but when it steals your passion, your money, your loyalty, and your worship from Christ—it’s idolatry. And the only cure for idolatry is repentance.

Turn your eyes off the screen and onto the Scriptures. Trade the stadium for the sanctuary. Replace Netflix with prayer, sports talk with soul winning, movie quotes with memory verses. Stop letting the devil entertain you to death.

### **Conclusion – Who Gets Your Applause?**

So here’s the final question: who gets your applause? The actor, the athlete, the idol—or the Almighty? Who gets your loyalty? Your team, your franchise, your studio—or your Savior? Who gets your money? Ticket vendors, merch shops, streaming services—or the gospel of Christ?

You can't clap for both. You can't cheer for Baal and Christ at the same time. You can't bow at Hollywood's altar and the cross simultaneously. One will kill the other. And in Laodicea, entertainment has killed Christianity.

So smash the idol. Quit bowing to Hollywood. Quit worshipping the NFL. Quit selling your soul for a laugh or a touchdown. Christ deserves better. Christ demands better. And if you call yourself His, then you'd better give Him the worship you've been wasting on spectacle.

Because when the lights fade, when the game ends, when the credits roll, there's only one name left standing—not Marvel, not Disney, not Brady, not Jordan, not Hollywood. The only name that matters is Jesus Christ.

Bow to Him, or bow to idols. The choice is yours.

### **7 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Science**

#### ***“Trust the Science” as a Creed. Darwin, Dawkins, and the Worship of Reason.***

If there's ever been a golden calf dressed up in a lab coat, it's science. America bows before it like Israel bowed to Baal, chanting the new liturgy: *“Trust the Science.”* That's the national creed now. You can doubt God, you can mock Christ, you can ridicule the Bible—but you'd better not question *“The Science.”* That's blasphemy in Laodicea.

But here's the problem: the “science” they want you to trust isn't science at all. Real science observes, measures, and tests. Real science is humble enough to admit it doesn't know everything. What they're selling today is scientism—a religion masquerading as research, a creed pretending to be chemistry, a faith system without faith in God. And the priests of this religion are Darwin, Dawkins, and every white-coated talking head that preaches from a podium.

### **Science as a New God**

Men used to bow to Zeus, Thor, or Jupiter. Today they bow to microscopes, telescopes, and test tubes. They used to pray to idols of stone; now they pray to “peer-reviewed journals.” They used to look to priests for answers; now they look to professors. They used to chant in temples; now they chant in universities. Same idolatry, different robes.

The Book already warned us. Romans 1 says men “professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man.” That’s the idol of science in one verse. Professors professing wisdom while denying God, bowing to the creation instead of the Creator.

### **Darwin – The Prophet of Evolution**

Let’s start with Darwin. The man wrote one book in 1859, and the world bent the knee. “Origin of Species” became the new Genesis. The Bible says, *In the beginning God created...* Darwin said, *In the beginning slime evolved.* And men said, “Amen.”

Buddy, evolution isn’t science; it’s sorcery. It’s a fairy tale for grown-ups who can’t stomach the idea of judgment. It tells you that everything came from nothing, life came from non-life, order came from chaos, and man came from monkeys. That’s not science—that’s alchemy with Latin footnotes.

And yet the world bows. Schools teach it as gospel. Museums display it as fact. Scientists build careers on it. And Christians compromise with it, inventing “theistic evolution” to look smart in the world’s eyes. But the Book says, *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.* Darwin’s theory is nothing but sanctified foolishness, and men worship it because it lets them dodge the cross.

### **Dawkins – The High Priest of Atheism**

Then there’s Richard Dawkins, the high priest of modern atheism. He wrote *The God Delusion*, and suddenly he’s the prophet of reason. His sermons are TED talks, his altar calls are book signings, his disciples are arrogant college kids who think quoting Dawkins makes them intellectual giants.

Dawkins worships evolution the way Catholics worship Mary. He bows to “natural selection” the way Hindus bow to Shiva. He preaches the gospel of science with more zeal than most preachers preach the gospel of Christ. And his message is simple: “There is no God. Trust the Science.”

That’s idolatry. That’s man worshipping man’s mind, man’s reason, man’s theories. And it’s the same old serpent hissing in Eden: “*Yea, hath God said?*” The idol of science is nothing but Lucifer dressed up in a lab coat.

## **“Trust the Science” – The New Creed**

You saw it plain as day during the last global crisis. Every press conference, every politician, every ad campaign chanted the same mantra: *“Trust the Science.”* Wear this, inject that, stay home, obey—because Science has spoken. It didn’t matter that the “facts” changed every week. It didn’t matter that yesterday’s “settled science” became today’s “debunked myth.” The creed never wavered: “Trust the Science.”

That’s not research; that’s religion. Real science questions. Real science doubts. Real science tests. But this idol demands blind faith. Don’t ask questions. Don’t investigate. Don’t challenge the experts. Just bow, obey, and trust. That’s not science—that’s a cult.

## **The Worship of Reason**

At the core of the idol of science is the worship of reason. Men believe their brains are the final authority. They think logic trumps revelation, equations trump inspiration, laboratories trump Scripture. And yet the smartest men on earth can’t answer the simplest questions: Where did life come from? What happens after death? Why is there something instead of nothing?

The Bible answers every one of those in the first verse: *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”* But men hate that answer because it means accountability. If God created you, He owns you. If He owns you, He’ll judge you. And man would rather bow to a beaker than face the Book.

## **The Scientists as Priests**

Look at how society treats scientists. White coats are their vestments. Laboratories are their temples. Conferences are their councils. Grants are their tithes. Peer-reviewed journals are their Scripture. Nobel Prizes are their crowns. They walk into a room and people hush like a pope just entered. “The expert is here. The science has spoken.”

That’s priestcraft, not progress. And it’s idolatry. You don’t question the high priest of Rome, and you don’t question the high priest of Science. Either way, you’re told to shut up, bow down, and trust the authority.

## **The Results of Bowing to Science**

What's the fruit of this idolatry? A generation of kids taught they're animals. A culture that treats sin as chemistry. A society that believes morality is relative. Men convinced they're accidents, women convinced they're meaningless, children convinced they're expendable. That's the rotten fruit of Darwin and Dawkins.

If you teach a kid he's a monkey, don't be surprised when he acts like one. If you teach a man there's no God, don't be surprised when he lives like the devil. If you teach a nation to "trust the Science," don't be shocked when they throw the Bible in the trash. That's the endgame: destroy faith, exalt reason, and enthrone man.

### **The Bible vs. Science**

Now don't misunderstand me—I'm not against real science. Real science confirms the Book every time. Archaeology proves it. Astronomy points to it. Biology screams it. But the idol of science—the worship of theories, the exaltation of experts, the blind faith in man's reason—that's the counterfeit.

The Bible says, "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge*" (Proverbs 1:7). Without God, science is just sophisticated foolishness. With God, science is just man catching up to what the Book said all along. But Laodicea won't have that. They'd rather worship the idol than the Almighty.

### **God's Response**

What does God think of this idol? Psalm 2 says, "*He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.*" He laughs at their particle colliders. He laughs at their space telescopes. He laughs at their theories about multiverses and big bangs. He spoke the universe into existence with one word, and men think they can figure Him out with a microscope. That's comedy in heaven.

And one day, every scientist who mocked the Book, every professor who ridiculed Christ, every student who worshipped reason will bow anyway. "*At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.*" That includes Darwin, Dawkins, and every talking head who told you to "trust the science."

### **The Call to Smash the Idol**

So what do we do? Smash the idol. Stop bowing to men in lab coats. Stop treating reason as revelation. Stop parroting “the experts” like they’re apostles. Start believing the Book over the beaker. Start trusting the Creator over the creation. Start worshipping the God of heaven instead of the god of hypotheses.

The idol of science is just another false god in Laodicea’s pantheon. It promises answers, but it gives lies. It promises progress, but it gives destruction. It promises wisdom, but it gives foolishness. And unless you smash it, it’ll blind you to the truth.

### **Conclusion – Who Do You Trust?**

So here’s the line in the sand. Who do you trust? The Book or the beaker? The Word of God or the word of men? Jesus Christ or Richard Dawkins? Genesis or Darwin? Revelation or “research”?

You can’t bow to both. You can’t cling to the cross and the chalkboard at the same time. One will drive out the other. And in Laodicea, “Trust the Science” has replaced “Trust the Savior.” That’s idolatry. That’s damnation. That’s the road to hell.

So smash the idol. Stop bowing to Darwin. Stop applauding Dawkins. Stop trusting in science as a creed. Start fearing the Lord, because the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. And when the smoke clears and the idols fall, the only truth left standing will be the same truth that’s stood since before the first atom ever spun: *In the beginning God created.*

### **8 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Technology**

#### **AI, Surveillance, and Transhumanism Becoming the New Tower of Babel**

If there’s ever been a Tower of Babel for the 21st century, it’s technology. Back in Genesis 11, men gathered together, pooled their knowledge, and said, “*Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name.*” And God looked down at their little construction project, laughed at their pride, and smashed the whole thing into dust. Well, buddy, Laodicea’s building that tower again, only this time it’s digital. The bricks are microchips, the mortar is fiber-optic cable, and the tower is made of glowing screens, satellites, and artificial intelligence. And the idol behind it all? Technology.

## **The Religion of Progress**

Men don't just use technology anymore—they worship it. They talk about “progress” the way Christians talk about sanctification. They talk about “innovation” the way preachers talk about revival. They believe their gadgets, their algorithms, their robots, their nanotech, their AI will save mankind. No need for Calvary, no need for Christ, no need for the cross—just code. That's the new gospel. That's the idol of technology.

It's the same lie from Eden: *“Ye shall be as gods.”* Now they just package it in Silicon Valley instead of serpents. Every new iPhone, every AI breakthrough, every biotech discovery gets paraded like a holy relic. Men bow before it, camp out in lines overnight to buy it, tattoo its logos on their skin, and treat it like the hope of humanity. That's idolatry, pure and simple.

## **AI – The New False Prophet**

Artificial Intelligence is the darling idol of our day. Politicians drool over it, corporations bank on it, and the masses treat it like magic. “AI will solve our problems! AI will cure diseases! AI will end poverty!” Hogwash. AI is just a parrot on steroids—repeating the data it's fed, dressed up to look like a god.

But men worship it. They treat chatbots like oracles, trusting their words more than Scripture. They treat machine learning like divine wisdom, forgetting the Book says, *“The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.”*

And don't miss the spiritual side: AI is training men to bow to a talking image. Revelation 13 says the False Prophet will give life to an image of the Beast, and the whole world will worship it. You think that's a stretch? Look around. People already bow to their glowing screens. They already take orders from algorithms. They already trust machines more than the Master. The idol of technology is paving the road for the Antichrist's kingdom.

## **Surveillance – The All-Seeing Eye**

Then there's surveillance. Cameras on every street corner. Microphones in every living room. Satellites overhead. Phones in every pocket, tracking every move, listening to every word. Men used to fear the eyes of the Lord. Now they fear the eyes of Big Tech.

The Book says, *“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good”* (Proverbs 15:3). That used to be enough to keep men straight. But now, instead of fearing

God, they fear algorithms. Instead of confessing sins to Christ, they scrub their browser history. Instead of trusting the Holy Ghost for conviction, they tremble before the possibility of being canceled online.

Surveillance is the idol of omniscience without God. It's man playing god, pretending he can know all, see all, and control all. And Christians, instead of fearing the Almighty, cower before the almighty algorithm. That's idolatry.

### **Transhumanism – Man as His Own Messiah**

But the ugliest face of the idol of technology is transhumanism. That's man deciding he's not good enough as God made him, so he'll upgrade himself. Chips in the brain. Nanobots in the bloodstream. Genetic edits in the womb. Uploading minds to the cloud. It's Frankenstein with Wi-Fi.

They call it "human enhancement." God calls it blasphemy. The Book says, *"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made"* (Psalm 139:14). But transhumanism says, "Not good enough. We'll rewrite the code, redesign the body, rebuild man in our own image." That's Babel all over again. That's man shaking his fist at heaven, saying, "We don't need you—we'll evolve ourselves."

And Christians, instead of blowing the whistle, sit back and cheer. They swallow the lie of progress. They treat transhumanism as cutting-edge science, not the abomination it is. They forget that every tower man has built to replace God has ended in ruin. And this one will too.

### **The Tower of Babel, Reloaded**

Make no mistake, technology is Babel 2.0. The Lord Himself said in Genesis 11, *"Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do."* Sound familiar? The internet has given mankind one language again. Instant communication across the globe. One digital tongue. One global network. And what do they do with it? Build another tower.

Only this time, the tower isn't bricks and mortar—it's code and cables. Only this time, the goal isn't heaven physically—it's heaven digitally. "We'll upload our minds! We'll achieve immortality! We'll conquer space! We'll defeat death!" Same pride, same idol, same judgment coming.

## **The Church Compromising**

And where's the church in all this? Bowing right along with the world. Pastors brag about their live streams more than their prayer meetings. Churches spend more on projectors than missionaries. Christians spend more time on TikTok than in Titus. They worship technology as much as the world, only they slap a cross on it and call it ministry.

Don't misunderstand me—technology can be a tool. But when the tool becomes the master, it's an idol. And for Laodicea, technology rules. They can't function without it. Take away the Wi-Fi and half the churches in America would shut down faster than a Walmart on fire.

## **The False Security of Technology**

Here's the kicker: men think technology makes them safe. Safer cars, smarter homes, stronger weapons, faster medicine. They think they can build a world where nothing can touch them. But the Bible says, "*When they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them*" (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

Technology won't save you from judgment. AI won't rewrite your name in the Book of Life. Nanobots won't keep your soul out of hell. Satellites won't shield you from the wrath of the Lamb. All the gadgets in the world won't buy you a second in eternity. When death comes, your iPhone is useless. When the trumpet sounds, your Wi-Fi drops. When you stand before God, your algorithms crash.

## **God's View of the Tower**

And don't think for a second God is impressed with your gadgets. Psalm 2 says He laughs. Psalm 33 says, "*The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.*" Devices—there's your iPhones, your AIs, your nanotech. He'll smash them like toys.

The Tower of Babel didn't intimidate Him, and neither does Silicon Valley. He could pull the plug on the whole system with one solar flare, one EMP, one word. Technology is nothing in His sight. And yet men bow before it like it's eternal. That's idolatry, and it's insanity.

## **The Call to Repent**

So what's the answer? Repent. Smash the idol. Use technology as a tool, but never as a god. Don't trust AI more than the Almighty. Don't fear the surveillance state more than the Savior. Don't look to transhumanism for immortality when Christ already promised you eternal life through His blood.

Quit worshipping progress and start worshipping the Prince of Peace. Quit trusting machines and start trusting the Master. Quit bowing to the Tower of Babel 2.0 and bow to Calvary. Because when the smoke clears, technology will burn with the rest of Laodicea's idols—but Christ will remain.

### **Conclusion – Who's Your God?**

So here's the line. Who's your god? The chip or the Christ? The screen or the Savior? The code or the cross? The tower of Babel or the blood of the Lamb?

You can't serve both. You can't bow to technology and Christ. You can't worship the gadget and the gospel. One will destroy the other. And in Laodicea, technology has destroyed faith. Men worship machines instead of their Maker. That's idolatry, and that's damnation.

So smash the idol. Don't bow to AI. Don't worship surveillance. Don't cheer for transhumanism. Smash the tower before it falls on you. Because the day is coming when God Himself will descend, scatter the languages again, smash the devices, and set His Son on the throne. And on that day, every knee will bow—not to Silicon Valley, not to AI, not to Babel 2.0, but to Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

### **9 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Religion**

#### **Denominations, Mega-Churches, and Personalities Worshiped Instead of Christ**

If there's one idol more blasphemous than all the rest, it's the idol men carve out of religion. Hollywood worships actors, Wall Street worships money, Silicon Valley worships technology, and Washington worships power. But the most damning idol of all is the one forged inside the church walls: religion itself.

Don't look so shocked. You think religion is automatically holy? The Pharisees had religion. Rome has religion. Every cult that ever damned a soul has religion. And in America, Laodicea has perfected the art of polishing religion until it shines like a golden calf in a

sanctuary. Denominations, mega-churches, personalities—men bow to them with more zeal than they ever bowed to Christ.

The Book says plainly in Colossians 2:8, *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”* That’s exactly what religion is: tradition of men without Christ.

### **Denominations as Idols**

Let’s start with denominations. Nothing wrong with order, nothing wrong with association, nothing wrong with like-minded fellowship. But the second your loyalty to a denomination trumps your loyalty to the Book, you’ve got an idol.

I’ve seen Baptists worship their “heritage” more than their Savior. I’ve seen Methodists bow to Wesley like he hung on the cross. I’ve seen Lutherans praise Luther as if he shed blood for their sins. I’ve seen Presbyterians quote Calvin more than they quote Paul. And Catholics—don’t even get me started. They’ve built an empire on worshipping men in robes, statues in cathedrals, and a Pope in Rome.

Denominations turn creeds into Scripture and founders into saviors. They print handbooks thicker than Bibles and demand obedience to them as if they came down from Sinai. That’s idolatry. When your final authority is your denomination’s tradition instead of God’s Book, you’ve bowed to the idol of religion.

### **Mega-Churches – The New Cathedrals**

Then there are the mega-churches. Giant sanctuaries built like malls, stages lit up like Broadway, services run like rock concerts. The people file in by the thousands, the fog machines puff, the band plays, and the preacher struts on stage like a CEO giving a keynote.

And the people clap. They cheer. They wave their hands. They post selfies. They leave saying, “Wow, what a church!” instead of, “What a Savior!” That’s proof right there. They didn’t meet with Christ; they met with a show.

The Book says in John 12:32, *“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”* But mega-churches don’t lift up Christ—they lift up spectacle. They lift up performance. They lift up branding. And they get results—millions of dollars, millions of followers, millions of views—but precious few souls converted to the true gospel.

That's not revival. That's religion. That's Laodicea building a golden calf with LED lights and calling it worship.

### **Personalities on the Throne**

And then there are the personalities. Preachers, authors, singers, influencers. Whole churches revolve around them. Their names are bigger than Christ's. Their books outsell the Bible. Their conferences pack more fans than revivals ever did.

And when they fall—as they always do—their followers crumble. Why? Because they weren't worshipping Christ, they were worshipping a man. They weren't grounded in the Word, they were grounded in charisma. That's idolatry.

Paul dealt with the same nonsense in Corinth. Some said, "I am of Paul," others, "I am of Apollos," and others, "I am of Cephas." And Paul rebuked the whole lot: *"Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?"* (1 Corinthians 1:13).

That's the problem today. Men bow to preachers, not the Prince. They quote their favorite authors, not the apostles. They follow their favorite conference speakers, not Christ. That's the idol of religion.

### **Religion Without Christ**

Here's the tragedy: religion without Christ can look almost exactly like true Christianity. It has the buildings, the services, the preachers, the music, the prayers. But it's hollow. Christ isn't on the throne—the denomination is, the pastor is, the tradition is.

And the Book says in 2 Timothy 3:5, *"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof."* That's American religion in one verse. Lots of form, no power. Lots of polish, no Spirit. Lots of show, no substance.

Religion without Christ damns more souls than atheism ever did. Atheists are obvious—they deny God outright. Religious idolaters deceive. They smile, they sing, they claim Christ with their lips, but their hearts bow to a different god. And the pews are packed with lost people who think they're fine because they belong to the right church, follow the right pastor, or give to the right budget. That's idolatry at its deadliest.

### **Christ Against Religion**

Don't miss this: Jesus Christ Himself despised religion without God. He reserved His harshest words not for prostitutes or tax collectors, but for Pharisees—religious leaders. He called them whited sepulchers, snakes, blind guides. Why? Because they turned God's truth into man's tradition. They loaded men with rules but refused to lift a finger to help. They bowed to their own system instead of their Savior.

And that's exactly what American religion has become. The Pharisees wore phylacteries; today's preachers wear skinny jeans or three-piece suits—take your pick. Either way, they polish the outside while the inside rots. That's religion without Christ, and that's the idol sitting in Laodicea's sanctuary.

### **The Fruit of Religious Idolatry**

What's the fruit? Division. Hypocrisy. Apostasy. Churches split over carpet color but ignore the lost. Denominations fight for influence but neglect the gospel. Pastors build empires but ignore the sheep. Christians chase experiences but forget holiness.

Religion makes people busy but never holy. It makes them loyal but never saved. It makes them active but never crucified with Christ. It fills pews but empties heaven. That's the fruit of the idol of religion.

### **The Endgame – Mystery Babylon**

And don't miss where this is all headed. Revelation 17 describes a great whore—Mystery Babylon—sitting on many waters, clothed in purple and scarlet, decked with gold and jewels, holding a golden cup full of abominations. That's the mother of all false religion. And the world will worship her in the Tribulation.

Every denomination that bows to tradition over truth, every mega-church that worships spectacle over the Savior, every personality that exalts himself above Christ—they're all paving the way for Babylon. And when she rises, they'll fall right in line.

### **God's Answer**

What's God's answer to the idol of religion? The same as always: smash it. The Book says in Revelation 18:4, *“Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”* Get out. Don't bow. Don't worship your denomination, your mega-church, your favorite preacher. Worship Christ.

Religion won't save you. Your church membership won't save you. Your pastor's charisma won't save you. Only Christ saves. Only His blood. Only His cross. And if you trust anything else—even if it's dressed up in stained glass and steeples—you're bowing to an idol.

### **Conclusion – Christ Alone**

So here's the line in the sand. Who do you worship? Your denomination, or your Deliverer? Your mega-church, or your Messiah? Your favorite personality, or your Prince of Peace?

You can't bow to both. You can't serve Christ and religion. You can't cling to the cross and the conference badge at the same time. One will kill the other. And in Laodicea, religion has killed Christianity.

So smash the idol. Walk away from empty tradition. Quit bowing to men. Quit worshipping the system. Bow to Christ alone. Because when the denominations crumble, when the mega-churches collapse, when the personalities fade, only one name will remain: Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

### **10 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Outrage**

#### ***A Culture Addicted to Offense, Prophecy of Matthew 24:10 Fulfilled***

If there's an idol that defines America right now, it isn't carved out of stone or gold—it's carved out of thin skin. We're living in the age of perpetual outrage. Everyone's offended about something, and they wear that offense like a badge of honor. Whole industries thrive on keeping people mad. News channels, social media platforms, politicians—they're all priests at the altar of outrage, feeding worshippers daily sacrifices of anger, bitterness, and offense.

And Christians, instead of smashing this idol, have bowed right along with the world. They're mad about politics, mad about neighbors, mad about preachers, mad about pews, mad about pronouns, mad about everything under the sun—except sin. They're inflamed about everyone else's faults but ice cold about their own. That's not discernment, that's idolatry.

## **Matthew 24:10 – The Prophecy**

The Book nailed it before Twitter was ever dreamed up: *“And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.”* (Matthew 24:10). That’s the 21st century in one verse. Offended at everything, betraying one another, hating one another. Jesus said it would happen in the last days, and buddy, you’re seeing it live and in color on your newsfeed.

The world calls it “cancel culture.” The Bible calls it prophecy fulfilled. People don’t just get offended anymore—they weaponize it. They build their identity around their outrage. They live for it, thrive on it, and evangelize it. Offense is their gospel, and outrage is their worship.

## **The Industry of Outrage**

Think about it: entire industries wouldn’t exist without outrage. News networks feed on it. Talk shows stir it up. Politicians manufacture it. Social media platforms profit off it. The whole machine runs on keeping people mad.

CNN needs conservatives angry so liberals keep tuning in. Fox needs liberals angry so conservatives keep tuning in. Twitter needs both sides angry so everyone keeps fighting. Outrage is the economy. And people willingly bow to it, offering up their peace, their time, their sanity, and their souls.

That’s idolatry. You’ve made anger your altar, bitterness your Bible, and offense your offering.

## **Outrage in the Church**

And don’t think the church isn’t infected. Some of the nastiest fights I’ve ever seen weren’t in bars—they were in Baptist business meetings. Christians split churches over pew cushions, hymnals, and paint colors. Families break fellowship over preferences. Believers block each other on Facebook over petty disagreements.

You know why? Because the idol of outrage has replaced the Spirit of grace. The Book says, *“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”* (Psalm 119:165). If you’re constantly offended, it’s proof you don’t love the law—you love yourself. Outrage is the idol, and you’ve bowed.

## **Offense as Identity**

We're living in a culture where people build their identity around what offends them. Whole groups introduce themselves not by what they love, but by what makes them mad. "We're outraged at racism. We're outraged at sexism. We're outraged at climate change." Others: "We're outraged at liberals. We're outraged at Hollywood. We're outraged at woke agendas."

Now don't misunderstand me—sin ought to stir righteous indignation. Jesus flipped tables in the temple. Paul rebuked false brethren. But righteous anger is about God's holiness, not your ego. The idol of outrage isn't about God at all—it's about you. It's self-worship disguised as moral conviction.

### **The Social Media Altar**

Nowhere is this idol more obvious than on social media. Outrage is the currency of the timeline. Posts that stir anger go viral. Tweets designed to inflame get amplified. Outrage drives clicks, clicks drive dollars, and the altar of offense gets bigger by the day.

People scroll their phones like priests handling prayer beads, looking for the next thing to be mad about. They can't go a day without it. It's an addiction. Their god is outrage, and their temple is the screen in their hand.

### **The Propaganda of Division**

This idol isn't just destructive personally—it's strategic globally. The devil uses outrage to divide. Jesus said, "*Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation.*" (Matthew 12:25). America is rotting because it's divided, and it's divided because everyone's offended.

The devil doesn't need bombs when he's got bitterness. He doesn't need tanks when he's got Twitter. He doesn't need dictators when he's got division. And Christians, instead of being peacemakers, jump into the outrage war with both fists swinging. That's not the Spirit—that's the flesh bowing to an idol.

### **The Cost of Bowing**

What does this idol cost? Your peace. Your joy. Your testimony. The Book says, "*Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.*" (Ephesians 4:26–27). Every time you bow to outrage, you give the devil your living room,

your mind, your heart. You trade peace with God for a fight with men. You let offense sit on the throne while Christ is pushed aside.

And once it takes root, it grows. Hebrews 12:15 calls it a root of bitterness that springs up and defiles many. Outrage doesn't stay personal—it spreads. It poisons families, churches, communities. It leaves wreckage everywhere. That's the fruit of idolatry.

### **Christ's Example**

Look at Christ. He had every right to be outraged. Betrayed by friends, lied about in court, mocked by soldiers, nailed to a cross. If anyone had a right to scream, "I'm offended!" it was Him. But what did He say? *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."*

That's the opposite of the idol of outrage. That's grace on display. That's peace under pressure. That's God showing you how to smash the idol and live free from its chains.

### **The Cure for Outrage**

The cure is simple but costly: humility. Philippians 2:3 says, *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."* That's the death blow to outrage. Outrage thrives on self-importance. Humility kills it.

Love kills it too. 1 Corinthians 13 says love is not easily provoked. If you're easily provoked, it's because you're not walking in love. Outrage can't survive in a heart filled with love for God and neighbor.

And focus kills it. Isaiah 26:3 says, *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee."* Keep your mind on Christ instead of controversies, and the idol of outrage shrivels up.

### **Smash the Idol**

So here's the call: smash the idol of outrage. Quit living offended. Quit bowing to bitterness. Quit offering sacrifices on the altar of anger. The world's going to rage itself into hell. You don't have to join them.

The next time your flesh rises up ready to be offended, remember the cross. Remember Christ bore the ultimate offense for you. Remember He absorbed the wrath you deserved

without lashing back. Remember that outrage nailed Him to the tree, but grace rolled the stone away.

### **Conclusion – Choose Your Altar**

So here's the line in the sand. Which altar will you bow to? The idol of outrage, or the cross of Christ? You can't worship both. One thrives on offense, the other on forgiveness. One thrives on bitterness, the other on grace. One thrives on division, the other on reconciliation.

And make no mistake: Matthew 24:10 is being fulfilled before your eyes. Many are offended. Many betray. Many hate. The idol of outrage is alive and well. But the remnant—the Bible-believing remnant—can smash that idol, live above the fray, and shine as lights in a crooked and perverse nation.

So choose. Outrage or Christ. Bitterness or blessing. The idol or the Almighty. And if you've got any sense, you'll smash that idol today and bow at the only altar that matters—the cross.

### **11 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Celebrity Preachers**

#### **From Hibbs to Osteen — Pulpits Turned Into Performance Stages**

If you want to know how far Laodicea has slid into apostasy, just take a look at its pulpits. The place that used to thunder with “*Thus saith the Lord*” now glitters with stage lights, fog machines, and motivational pep talks. The pulpit—once a battlefield where men fought for truth—is now a platform where celebrities strut for applause. And the people love to have it so.

We've raised up a generation that doesn't want prophets—they want performers. They don't want preaching—they want personality. They don't want the Word—they want a brand. And the pastors obliged. From Hibbs to Osteen, from the left coast to the Bible Belt, pulpits have turned into performance stages, and preachers have become celebrities.

That, brother, is idolatry. Pure, uncut, Laodicean idolatry.

## **The Biblical Pulpit vs. the Celebrity Stage**

You crack open the Book and you find men who preached at the risk of their lives. Jeremiah stood alone against a nation. Amos roared against corruption. John the Baptist lost his head for telling the truth. Paul got stoned, whipped, and chained. Jesus Himself was crucified for what He preached.

Now look at the modern pulpit. Spotlights, stage design, skinny jeans, rehearsed jokes, applause breaks. No one's in danger of losing their head. No one's in danger of being jailed. The only "persecution" these celebrity preachers face is a bad review on Yelp. That's not the pulpit—that's Broadway.

The Bible says in 2 Timothy 4:2, *"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."* You don't hear much reproofing in Laodicea. You don't hear much rebuking. You hear plenty of affirming. You hear plenty of soothing. You hear plenty of "live your best life now." That's not doctrine—that's drivel.

## **The Osteen Gospel – Smiling Your Way to Hell**

Let's start with the poster boy of celebrity preaching: Joel Osteen. The man with the permanent grin and the gospel of self-esteem. He packs stadiums, sells millions of books, and beams into living rooms worldwide every week. And what's his message? Not sin. Not hell. Not the blood. Not repentance. Just "God wants you to be happy. Believe in yourself. Live your best life now."

That's not preaching—that's therapy. That's not the gospel—that's cotton candy. It looks good, tastes good, and kills you spiritually. Osteen wouldn't mention hell if you spotted him the first three letters. He wouldn't preach on sin if you handed him the outline. He's allergic to the very words that Jesus used more than He used "heaven."

And the people lap it up. They don't want the Great Physician—they want a life coach. They don't want the Man of Sorrows—they want Mr. Rogers with a Bible. And Osteen delivers. That's idolatry: worshipping a smiling celebrity instead of the crucified Christ.

## **The Hibbs Crowd – Political Prophets Without the Gospel**

On the other side, you've got men like Jack Hibbs—celebrity preachers who build their brand not on smiles but on politics. Don't misunderstand me—there's nothing wrong with exposing corruption and calling sin what it is in government. The prophets did it. John the Baptist did it. But when your entire pulpit becomes a stump speech, when the Constitution

gets quoted more than the Bible, when America's future takes precedence over eternal souls, you've bowed to the idol of celebrity.

Hibbs packs conferences, trends on social media, and stirs up applause with political jabs. But where's the blood? Where's the Book? Where's the gospel of Christ crucified and risen? It gets drowned out in the noise of patriotism. America first, Christ second. That's idolatry in red, white, and blue.

### **The Mega-Pastor Machine**

And it isn't just Osteen or Hibbs. The whole machine of American evangelicalism has turned pastors into celebrities. They're brands now. They have merch lines. They have book deals. They have PR teams. They have personal stylists. Their sermons are TED talks, their churches are concert halls, and their followers are fans, not disciples.

The Bible says, "*We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.*" (2 Corinthians 4:5). But celebrity preachers do the opposite—they preach themselves. Their names are bigger than Christ's. Their faces are on billboards. Their logos are trademarks. Their ministries are empires. That's idolatry.

### **Personality-Driven Worship**

And the people encourage it. Churches rise and fall not on the gospel, but on the personality of the preacher. If the pastor leaves, the church collapses. Why? Because it was never built on Christ—it was built on charisma. That's exactly what Paul rebuked in Corinth. Some followed Paul, some Apollos, some Cephas. And Paul smacked them with truth: "*Is Christ divided?*"

But Laodicea doesn't care. They want a leader they can idolize, not a Savior they have to obey. They want a celebrity to follow, not a Christ to crucify the flesh. And they get what they want. The pulpit becomes a pedestal, and the preacher becomes an idol.

### **Entertainment Instead of Edification**

Celebrity preachers feed their flocks sugar instead of meat. They're entertainers, not expositors. Their goal isn't to feed sheep but to attract crowds. They measure success by attendance, applause, and online engagement, not by holiness, humility, or sound doctrine.

And the tragedy is, the sheep love it. Jeremiah 5:31 says, *“The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so.”* That’s Laodicea’s theme verse. They don’t want the sword of the Spirit—they want smooth sayings. They don’t want conviction—they want comfort. They don’t want prophets—they want performers.

### **The Danger of Celebrity Idolatry**

What happens when preachers become idols? The same thing that happens when any man becomes an idol—he falls, and his followers fall with him. Scandals rock the church every year. Mega-pastors caught in adultery, embezzlement, abuse. And when it happens, the sheep scatter. Why? Because their faith was in a man, not Christ.

That’s the danger of idolatry. Build your faith on a celebrity preacher, and when he crumbles, so will you. Build your faith on Christ, and you’ll stand no matter who falls.

### **Christ’s View of Celebrity Religion**

What does Christ think of all this? Revelation 3 gives His verdict on Laodicea: *“Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing... and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.”* That’s the celebrity preacher culture in one verse. They’re rich. They’re famous. They’re polished. But in heaven’s eyes, they’re bankrupt.

Jesus never asked for celebrities. He asked for servants. He never told His men to build brands. He told them to carry a cross. He never told them to draw crowds. He told them to make disciples. And any preacher who swaps that calling for fame is bowing to an idol.

### **The Call to Smash the Stage**

So what’s the answer? Smash the idol. Tear down the stage. Strip away the lights. Dismantle the brand. Get back to the Book, the blood, the blessed hope. Quit worshipping preachers, and worship Christ. Quit following men, and follow the Master. Quit clapping for celebrities, and bow before the Savior.

The pulpit isn’t a platform for fame—it’s a place for fire. It’s where the Word of God is proclaimed with power, where sin is rebuked, where Christ is exalted, where eternity is laid bare. Anything less is idolatry.

## **Conclusion – Who’s on the Throne?**

So here’s the bottom line. Who’s on the throne in your church? Christ, or a celebrity? Who’s lifted up higher—the Savior, or the stage? Who gets the glory—the Son of God, or the smiling preacher with the book deal?

You can’t have both. You can’t serve Christ and celebrity. You can’t bow to the cross and the camera at the same time. One will kill the other. And in Laodicea, celebrity has killed Christianity.

So smash the idol. Stop worshipping Osteen. Stop idolizing Hibbs. Stop bowing to men. Bow to Christ alone. Because when the lights go out, when the cameras stop rolling, when the names fade, only one name will remain: the name above every name, Jesus Christ.

## **12 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Patriotism**

### ***National Flags Draped Over the Cross, Confusing America With the Kingdom of God***

If there’s one idol that has Laodicea by the throat, it’s the idol of patriotism. Don’t misunderstand me—I thank God for the freedoms I’ve had in this country. I’ll salute the flag, I’ll pray for leaders, I’ll be grateful for soldiers who fought. But the second you drape that flag over the cross, you’ve crossed the line from gratitude to idolatry. You’ve made America a god, and you’ve confused the Kingdom of God with the kingdoms of men.

The Book says plainly in Philippians 3:20, *“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”* That’s a Bible believer’s citizenship. Heaven, not Washington. New Jerusalem, not New York. But American Christians have traded the blessed hope for the American dream. They’ve bowed to the idol of patriotism, and they can’t even tell the difference.

## **Draping the Flag Over the Cross**

Step into the average church on the Fourth of July, and you’ll see what I mean. Flags draped across the stage. Patriotic songs sung louder than hymns. Veterans applauded more than missionaries. The cross shoved into the background while Old Glory takes center stage.

Now, nothing wrong with thanking God for liberty. Nothing wrong with honoring service. But when the American flag takes the place of the blood-stained banner of Calvary, you've turned the sanctuary into a shrine for nationalism. That's not Christianity—that's patriotism masquerading as piety.

The Book says, "*God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" (Galatians 6:14). But Laodicea glories in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Star-Spangled Banner. They'll die for the flag before they'll live for the cross. That's idolatry.

### **Confusing America With the Kingdom of God**

This is where the deception gets deadly. Christians actually think America is the Kingdom of God. They think the Founding Fathers were apostles. They think the Declaration of Independence was divinely inspired Scripture. They think the Constitution is the Book of Acts for Gentiles.

That's nonsense. The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17). America is hamburgers, halftime shows, and Hollywood filth. The Kingdom of God is eternal. America's got an expiration date. The Kingdom of God is run by Jesus Christ. America is run by politicians who can't tell the truth if their careers depended on it.

And yet preachers stand in pulpits and wave the flag as if it were the gospel. They preach patriotism instead of repentance. They call for revival in Washington instead of revival in the heart. They confuse American exceptionalism with biblical election. That's idolatry.

### **"God and Country" – The Deadly Blend**

You've heard it: "God and Country." It's printed on bumper stickers, shouted at rallies, plastered on church bulletins. But here's the problem—God doesn't share His glory with anybody, not even America. Isaiah 42:8 says, "*My glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.*" That includes national idols.

"God and Country" sounds spiritual, but it's a golden calf wrapped in red, white, and blue. The church doesn't need "God and Country." It needs God, period. The country will follow or fall depending on whether the church stays faithful to Christ. But Laodicea has made the flag an equal partner with the cross. That's not loyalty—that's adultery.

## **The False Gospel of Patriotism**

The idol of patriotism preaches its own gospel. It says, “If America prospers, God is pleased. If America declines, God is angry.” That’s hogwash. God’s covenant isn’t with America. He never promised to bless every nation that prints “In God We Trust” on its money while it slaughters babies and celebrates sodomy.

The only nation with a covenant is Israel. The only kingdom God cares about right now is spiritual, not political. And yet American Christians bow to the idol of patriotism, believing that as long as the economy is strong and the military is mighty, God’s on their side. That’s a false gospel, and it damns as surely as Rome’s sacraments.

## **The Preachers of Patriotism**

And don’t think the pulpit’s clean. Many a preacher has sold out the cross for a campaign. They quote Washington more than Paul, Jefferson more than Jesus, Reagan more than Peter. Their sermons are political rallies disguised as worship services. They whip the crowd into a frenzy about America’s greatness, but they never confront America’s sin.

You want proof? When’s the last time you heard one of these patriotic pulpiteers preach against fornication, abortion, sodomy, drunkenness, or greed? They don’t. They rail against Democrats or liberals, but they won’t touch the sins rotting in their own pews. Why? Because their god is America, not Christ. They’re more concerned about saving the country than saving souls. That’s idolatry.

## **Patriotism as a Substitute for Holiness**

Here’s the subtle danger: patriotism becomes a substitute for holiness. People think waving a flag, voting conservative, and loving their country makes them godly. It doesn’t. Holiness is obeying the Book, not pledging allegiance. Holiness is crucifying the flesh, not saluting the flag. Holiness is following Christ, not following a party.

But Laodicea loves substitutes. It loves idols. It loves anything that looks spiritual without requiring repentance. Patriotism fits the bill perfectly—it makes people feel righteous without making them right with God.

## **The Coming Collapse**

And don't miss this: America won't last forever. Every empire falls. Babylon fell. Persia fell. Greece fell. Rome fell. Britain fell. America will fall. And when it does, the idol of patriotism will crumble with it. The stars and stripes won't be flying when the Antichrist takes the throne. The Constitution won't protect you when Christ comes in flaming fire.

Daniel 2 shows the kingdoms of this world as a statue—gold, silver, brass, iron, and clay. And a stone cut without hands smashes the whole thing to dust. That's Christ's kingdom. America isn't in that statue. America isn't eternal. The only kingdom that matters is the one coming with Jesus Christ on the throne.

### **God's True Kingdom**

So where should a Christian's loyalty be? Not to a flag, but to a King. Not to a nation, but to a kingdom. Not to Washington, but to the Word. Jesus said in John 18:36, *"My kingdom is not of this world."* Paul said in Colossians 1:13, *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."*

That's the kingdom that matters. That's the kingdom that lasts. That's the kingdom that deserves your allegiance. Everything else—every nation, every flag, every constitution—will burn. But Christ's kingdom will never be destroyed.

### **The Call to Repent**

So what's the answer? Repent. Quit bowing to America as if it were the New Jerusalem. Quit confusing patriotism with piety. Quit thinking waving a flag makes you right with God. Thank Him for blessings, sure. Pray for leaders, yes. Be grateful for freedom, amen. But never, ever confuse America with the kingdom of God.

Your first allegiance is to Christ, not country. Your first loyalty is to the cross, not the flag. Your first duty is to the gospel, not the government. Anything else is idolatry.

### **Conclusion – Smash the Idol**

So here's the bottom line. Who sits on your throne—Christ or America? Who gets your glory—the cross or the Constitution? Who do you worship—the Savior or the stars and stripes?

You can't have both. You can't serve two masters. You can't bow to Calvary and Capitol Hill at the same time. One will destroy the other. And in Laodicea, patriotism has destroyed Christianity.

So smash the idol. Thank God for liberty, but don't worship it. Pray for leaders, but don't bow to them. Love your country, but love Christ more. Because when the trumpet sounds, the only banner that matters isn't red, white, and blue—it's blood red, pure white, and royal blue: the banner of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

### **13 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Youth Culture**

#### **Churches Bending Worship to TikTok Trends Instead of Truth**

If you want proof that American Christianity has lost its backbone, look no further than the way churches bow at the feet of their teenagers. The Book says, "*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right*" (Ephesians 6:1). But Laodicea flipped it: "Parents, obey your children in the Lord: for this is relevant." Instead of training up children in the way they should go, the church bends to the way children want to go. The result? Youth culture is now the idol, and the house of God is nothing but a glorified playground.

#### **The Cult of the Young**

This generation worships youth. They Botox their faces, dye their hair, stretch their skin, and bankrupt themselves chasing the illusion of being young forever. Old folks dress like teenagers, teenagers act like toddlers, and toddlers are given smartphones to babysit themselves into zombies. The whole culture bows to youth like it's eternal life in a bottle.

And the church swallowed the bait. Pulpits don't preach to the saints anymore—they cater to the youth group. Sermons are dumbed down, worship is revved up, and doctrine is watered down to keep the kids entertained. If a pastor dares preach sound doctrine, the youth get "bored," and the parents complain, and the deacons panic because "the young people are leaving." So they smash the altar of truth and build a golden calf of TikTok trends.

That's idolatry.

## **TikTok Worship Services**

Take a look at the average “contemporary service.” It’s not built around the Bible; it’s built around trends. The worship team scrolls social media for the next big sound, mimics it, slaps “Jesus” on it, and calls it praise. Sermons get boiled down to five-minute inspirational nuggets so teenagers won’t lose interest. Sanctuaries are tricked out with neon lights, fog machines, and screens blasting memes.

That’s not worship—that’s pandering. The Book says, “*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth*” (John 4:24). TikTok can give you spirit—emotions, hype, tears—but it can’t give you truth. Truth comes from the Book. Truth comes from preaching. Truth comes from sound doctrine. And Laodicea traded it for likes, shares, and followers.

## **Youth Pastors as Court Jesters**

And what about the youth pastors? Half of them look more like clowns than ministers. Skinny jeans, backwards hats, memes in their sermons, and pizza nights as the centerpiece of their “ministry.” They’re not shepherds feeding the flock—they’re court jesters entertaining the kids.

Paul told Timothy, “*Preach the word... reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*” (2 Timothy 4:2). That’s the job. But most youth pastors can’t preach their way out of a paper bag. They’re more interested in keeping kids happy than making them holy. They’d rather go viral than go deep. They’d rather be cool than be crucified with Christ.

And the kids eat it up. They’re trained to think church is about fun, not faith; hype, not holiness; relevance, not righteousness. That’s the idol of youth culture, and it’s killing Laodicea from the inside.

## **Parents Abdicating**

But let’s not just blame the youth. Parents are just as guilty. They dump their kids on youth programs and expect the church to disciple them. They won’t teach them at home, they won’t read the Bible with them, they won’t set boundaries—but they’ll complain when their kids grow up godless.

The idol of youth culture demands sacrifice, and parents offer their children to it daily. Instead of raising kids in the fear and admonition of the Lord, they raise them in the glow of a smartphone. Instead of teaching obedience, they teach entitlement. Instead of giving

them the Word, they give them Wi-Fi. And the kids grow up knowing every TikTok trend but not one verse of Romans.

That's idolatry by neglect.

### **The "Relevance" Scam**

The excuse for all this nonsense is "relevance." "We've got to stay relevant to reach the youth!" Hogwash. The gospel has never been "relevant." It's been offensive. The cross isn't trendy—it's bloody. Repentance isn't hip—it's humiliating. Holiness isn't popular—it's costly.

But Laodicea doesn't want the offense of the cross. They want applause. They want acceptance. They want to look like the world to win the world. But the Book says, "*Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind*" (Romans 12:2). The church isn't supposed to mimic culture; it's supposed to confront it. But youth culture has become the new god, and the church bows.

### **Fruit of the Idol**

And what's the fruit? A generation that knows all the trends but none of the truth. They can quote TikTok stars but not Titus. They can recite memes but not Matthew. They can worship with their hands raised on Sunday and live like devils on Monday.

That's not revival—that's rot. Youth culture has produced weak Christians, shallow churches, and powerless pulpits. Instead of raising Daniels who stand in Babylon, we've raised Demases who forsake Paul, "having loved this present world."

### **Bible Examples Ignored**

The irony is, the Bible gives clear examples of young people who stood strong—Joseph, Samuel, David, Timothy. But none of them were coddled by youth groups. None of them had pizza parties and TikTok sermons. They had truth. They had training. They had tests. And they stood because they were grounded in God, not trends.

Today's youth culture avoids all that. It avoids truth because it's offensive, training because it's hard, and testing because it's uncomfortable. It builds soft Christians who melt under pressure. That's the idol of youth culture: it promises strength but produces weakness.

## **God's View of Youth Culture**

What does God think of this idolatry? Ecclesiastes 11:9 says, *“Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth... but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.”*

Judgment—that’s God’s word to the youth culture. Dance, sing, scroll, trend—but judgment is coming.

And Isaiah 3:12 warns, *“As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them.”* That’s Laodicea to a tee—children ruling homes, youth dictating churches, and the whole culture upside down. God doesn’t smile on that. He judges it.

## **The Cure – Back to the Book**

So what’s the cure? Back to the Book. Back to truth. Back to preaching that doesn’t care about being trendy. Back to worship that’s about God, not gimmicks. Back to raising kids with Scripture, not smartphones.

The idol of youth culture needs to be smashed. Kids don’t need the church to mimic TikTok—they need the church to preach Titus. They don’t need a youth pastor to be their buddy—they need a man of God to be their guide. They don’t need hype—they need holiness.

## **Conclusion – Who Rules?**

So here’s the question: who rules your church—Christ or kids? Who sets the agenda—the Book or TikTok? Who dictates worship—the Spirit or trends?

You can’t serve both. You can’t bow to Christ and culture. You can’t worship the cross and TikTok at the same time. One will kill the other. And in Laodicea, youth culture has killed truth.

So smash the idol. Stop worshipping teenagers. Stop bowing to trends. Stop pandering to kids. Raise them. Train them. Preach to them. Love them enough to give them truth, even if it offends them. Because when the trends fade, when TikTok crashes, when culture burns, the only thing that will stand is the truth of God’s Word.

And if the church doesn’t get back to that, it won’t just lose its youth—it’ll lose its soul.

## **14 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Education**

### **Universities Exalted as Temples of “Truth,” Degrees Replacing Discernment**

If you want to see where America’s golden calves graze, don’t just look at Wall Street or Hollywood. Take a stroll down Ivy League Lane. The idols there wear caps and gowns, not cassocks. The temples are ivy-covered buildings with Latin mottos carved in stone. The priests aren’t in robes with crosses—they’re professors with PhDs. And the worshippers? Parents and kids bowing at the altar of “higher education,” convinced a piece of paper with a seal on it is more valuable than the fear of the Lord.

The Book says, *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”* (Proverbs 9:10). But America flipped it: “The fear of student debt is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the university is understanding.” You can smell the incense of idolatry coming off every commencement ceremony.

### **Universities as Modern Temples**

Walk onto a university campus, and you’re not in a school—you’re in a cathedral. The architecture alone screams religion: vaulted ceilings, stained glass windows with secular saints, libraries built like sanctuaries. The rituals are academic, but the spirit is religious. Orientation is catechism. Lectures are homilies. Finals are pilgrimages. Graduation is the sacrament. And the degree is the holy relic that proves you’ve been initiated into the priesthood of the educated.

That’s not learning—that’s liturgy. Universities present themselves as temples of truth, but the only truth they recognize is man’s. God’s truth? Out the window. Scripture? Mocked. Christ? Rejected. But they’ll bow to Darwin, Dawkins, Freud, Marx, and every other godless prophet who tells them what their itching ears want to hear.

### **Degrees as Idols**

And what about the degrees? Nothing wrong with study. Nothing wrong with training. Paul himself studied under Gamaliel. But when that diploma becomes your god, when those letters after your name become your idol, you’ve replaced discernment with credentials.

Today, a man can quote the Bible, win souls, preach the gospel straight, and he’ll be dismissed as “uneducated.” Meanwhile, some tenured fool with three PhDs can stand up,

deny God, deny Christ, deny morality, deny biology, and the world hails him as a “great thinker.” That’s idolatry. That’s men worshipping degrees instead of truth.

The Book says in Acts 4:13 that the rulers “marvelled” when they saw Peter and John—*“unlearned and ignorant men”*—boldly preaching Christ. Why? Because their authority wasn’t a degree. It was the Holy Ghost. But Laodicea doesn’t care about that anymore. They want framed papers on the wall, not fire in the belly.

### **Education as Salvation**

The idol of education even preaches its own gospel: “Get a degree, and you’ll be saved.” Saved from poverty. Saved from insignificance. Saved from ignorance. Parents push it like it’s redemption: “Son, if you don’t go to college, you’ll ruin your life.” No, son, if you don’t go to Calvary, you’ll ruin your soul.

Education promises a heaven of comfort, careers, and prestige. Its hell is minimum wage and “wasted potential.” Its prophets are guidance counselors, its evangelists are recruiters, and its altar calls are admissions letters. The whole thing’s a counterfeit gospel. And the world bows to it daily.

### **Professors as Priests**

Look at how professors are treated. They’re not teachers—they’re high priests of knowledge. Students hang on their every word. Parents trust them to shape their kids’ souls. Politicians quote them as authorities. Their word is law, their theories are gospel, their opinions are unchallengeable.

And what do most of them preach? Atheism, evolution, socialism, relativism, feminism, sodomy. They sneer at the Bible, laugh at Christ, and call sin “freedom.” And parents pay tens of thousands of dollars to let their kids sit under that filth. That’s not education—that’s indoctrination. That’s not truth—that’s idolatry.

### **The Fruit of Educational Idolatry**

What’s the fruit? Look around. A generation that can’t change a tire but can deconstruct gender. A culture that can’t balance a budget but can spout Marxist slogans. A church that thinks quoting Greek words makes up for a lack of Holy Ghost fire. A nation drowning in debt, depression, and decadence—all while boasting about how “educated” it is.

Romans 1 says, “*Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.*” That’s the fruit of worshipping education. Smart phones, dumb people. Big degrees, small discernment. Packed heads, empty hearts. It’s idolatry, and it’s rotting Laodicea from the inside out.

### **Christian Colleges – Bowing With the World**

And don’t think the Christian colleges are clean. Many of them bow to the same idol. They care more about accreditation than anointing. They boast about faculty credentials more than faithful doctrine. They sell themselves as “respectable” to the world instead of faithful to Christ.

So you get Christian kids who graduate knowing the five points of Calvinism but not the five wounds of Calvary. They can argue about manuscripts but can’t win a soul. They can parse Hebrew verbs but can’t pray five minutes. That’s not Bible training—that’s brainwashing. That’s the idol of education dressed up in Christian clothes.

### **The Spirit vs. the Syllabus**

Here’s the bottom line: education is no substitute for the Spirit of God. You can memorize every textbook ever written, stack degrees to the ceiling, and still die and go to hell. Meanwhile, some “ignorant fisherman” with the Holy Ghost can shake a city with the gospel. That’s the difference.

The idol of education says, “Trust the syllabus.” The Bible says, “Trust the Spirit.” The idol of education says, “The degree makes the man.” The Book says, “*The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.*” (Job 33:4). You can’t get that in a classroom.

### **God’s Perspective**

What does God think of this idol? Ecclesiastes 12:12 says, “*Of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.*” God isn’t impressed with libraries. He’s not wowed by degrees. He looks at men worshipping education, puffed up with pride, and He laughs. Psalm 2 all over again: “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh.”

The Lord doesn’t measure wisdom by your GPA. He measures it by your fear of Him. He doesn’t measure authority by your PhD. He measures it by whether you preach the Book. And on Judgment Day, every diploma will burn, but the Word of God will stand forever.

## **Smash the Idol**

So what's the call? Smash the idol. Quit worshipping universities as if they were temples. Quit treating degrees like salvation. Quit bowing to professors like priests. Thank God for education where it helps, but never let it replace discernment, wisdom, or the Spirit.

The Book is your authority, not the syllabus. Christ is your Savior, not the college. The Holy Ghost is your Teacher, not the professor. Anything else is idolatry.

## **Conclusion – What's on Your Wall?**

So here's the question: what's on your wall—a diploma, or a cross? What do you trust—your degree, or your Deliverer? What do you worship—your education, or your Eternal God?

You can't have both. You can't bow to the university and the Upper Room at the same time. One will kill the other. And in Laodicea, education has killed discernment.

So smash the idol. Trade your diplomas for discernment. Trade your degrees for devotion. Trade your education for the eternal truth of God's Word. Because when the lights go out, when the campuses crumble, when the libraries burn, the only thing left standing will be the Word of God and the souls of men.

And brother, no PhD in the world can prepare you for that exam.

## **15 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Science Fiction & UFOs**

### ***Aliens as Saviors, Disclosure as Gospel, Conditioning for Antichrist***

You want to talk about one of the biggest con jobs of the last century? It's the religion of science fiction and UFOs. Don't kid yourself—this isn't just entertainment, and it isn't just curiosity. It's worship. Pure, old-fashioned idolatry dressed up in spacesuits and special effects. Americans may not bow before golden calves anymore, but they'll bow before Yoda, Spock, and every alien messiah Hollywood cranks out. And now, the government is feeding the frenzy with "disclosure," and the world is treating it like revelation from Sinai.

The Book says, “*For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.*” (2 Thessalonians 2:11). That’s science fiction in one verse: a strong delusion. And it’s prepping the world for the biggest lie yet—the Antichrist showing up as a cosmic savior.

### **Sci-Fi: Religion in Disguise**

Let’s start with science fiction itself. It isn’t just stories—it’s sermons. Every sci-fi epic is a catechism in humanism, evolution, and cosmic salvation. Star Wars tells you salvation comes through “the Force.” Star Trek says salvation comes through progress and unity. Marvel movies tell you saviors wear capes and come from outer space. It’s religion disguised as entertainment, and the world eats it up by the billions.

Romans 1 says men “changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator.” That’s sci-fi in a nutshell. Worshipping aliens, advanced civilizations, “cosmic energy”—all creation, no Creator. And the average American Christian sits there stuffing popcorn in their mouth and calling it “just a movie.” Hogwash. It’s brainwashing, and it’s idolatry.

### **UFOs: The New Revelation**

Then there’s UFOs. Buddy, they’re everywhere—on the news, in Pentagon briefings, plastered across documentaries. For decades, the government laughed at people who claimed to see flying saucers. Now they admit it, and suddenly it’s a gospel announcement. “Disclosure” is the new revelation. The prophets aren’t Isaiah and Jeremiah—they’re fighter pilots and retired generals. Their testimonies are treated like Scripture: “I saw the lights. I heard the sound. I couldn’t explain it.”

The Book says, “*Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God.*” (1 John 4:1). Nobody’s trying these spirits. They’re bowing to them. They assume every strange light is benevolent, every UFO is advanced intelligence, every “alien” is a savior. That’s not science—that’s religion. That’s idolatry.

### **Aliens as Saviors**

And here’s the kicker: aliens have replaced Christ in the imagination of millions. “They’ll come with advanced knowledge. They’ll heal our diseases. They’ll unite the nations. They’ll bring peace.” Sound familiar? It should—that’s the exact script for the Antichrist. He’s

coming with power, signs, lying wonders, promising peace and unity. And sci-fi has already conditioned the world to accept him.

Don't believe me? Look at the movies. "The Day the Earth Stood Still" had an alien savior. "E.T." had a messiah figure who died and rose again. "Superman" is literally a Christ counterfeit—sent from above, raised by humans, fighting evil, saving the world. Hollywood preaches a false gospel with aliens as saviors, and Laodicea soaks it up like doctrine.

### **Conditioning the Masses**

This isn't accidental. It's conditioning. The devil knows his time is short, and he's prepping the world to fall for his man. Revelation 13 says the Beast will deceive the whole world with miracles. How do you get billions of people—atheists, agnostics, Muslims, Catholics, Protestants, pagans—to worship one man? Easy: you spend decades seeding their imaginations with alien saviors, cosmic messiahs, and intergalactic unity. By the time the Antichrist shows up, they'll say, "Finally, our alien friend has arrived!"

That's not speculation—that's Satan's strategy. And Americans, fat on popcorn and Marvel movies, are ripe for the deception.

### **The Strong Delusion**

Paul nailed it in 2 Thessalonians 2: *"For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."* UFO worship is the strong delusion. It's men refusing the truth of Christ, so God lets them choke on lies about aliens. You didn't want Calvary? Fine—here's cosmic Christ. You didn't want the Bible? Fine—here's disclosure documents. You didn't want the Holy Ghost? Fine—here's "the Force." That's the judgment of God on a Christ-rejecting world.

### **The Devil's Mask**

And don't forget who's behind this mess: the devil himself. Ephesians 2 calls him "the prince of the power of the air." You think it's a coincidence all these UFOs are in the sky? You think it's an accident aliens always show up from "out there"? That's the devil's stomping ground—the air. Demons masquerading as aliens. Fallen angels dressed up as "advanced civilizations." Devils deceiving men into worshipping creation instead of the Creator.

And the world buys it wholesale. They'd rather believe in Martians than in the Messiah. They'd rather bow to green men than the God-man. They'd rather trust in intergalactic travelers than in the One who traveled from heaven to earth to die on a cross. That's idolatry, and it's damnable.

### **Christians Compromising**

And don't think Christians are clean in this. I've seen preachers speculate about aliens. I've seen Christian authors write books trying to merge the Bible with UFO sightings. They twist Genesis 6 into "alien hybrids," Revelation into "extraterrestrial battles," Ezekiel's wheel into a UFO sighting. That's compromise. That's bowing to sci-fi instead of standing on Scripture.

The Book doesn't need little green men to explain it. It already told you what's out there—principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12). You don't need aliens to explain it. The Book already gave you the truth. But Laodicea prefers Spielberg to Scripture.

### **Fruit of the Idol**

What's the fruit of worshipping science fiction and UFOs? Distraction. Deception. Damnation. Men spend their lives studying stars and lights while ignoring the Light of the World. They fantasize about cosmic saviors while rejecting the real Savior. They dream of peace from space while ignoring the Prince of Peace.

And the fruit in the church is just as rotten. Preachers avoid preaching on Christ's return because it sounds too much like "conspiracy theories." Christians spend more time speculating about aliens than studying the blessed hope. The idol of science fiction has robbed the church of discernment.

### **God's Perspective**

What does God think of all this? Psalm 115:4–8 gives the verdict: *"Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not... They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them."* That's UFO worship. Idols in the sky, fantasies in the mind, lies in the heart. And those who worship them become just as blind and dumb as the idols themselves.

Isaiah 45:22 says, “*Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth.*” God doesn’t point you to the stars—He points you to the cross. He doesn’t tell you to look to aliens—He tells you to look to His Son. And men who ignore that for fantasies in the sky are spitting in His face.

### **Smash the Idol**

So what’s the call? Smash the idol. Quit bowing to sci-fi fantasies. Quit swallowing UFO propaganda. Quit daydreaming about aliens while neglecting the Almighty. If you’re saved, cling to Christ alone. If you’re lost, repent before you get swept into the delusion.

The truth is simple: aliens won’t save you. Disclosure won’t save you. Technology won’t save you. Only the blood of Jesus Christ saves. Everything else is a lie. Everything else is bait for the Antichrist.

### **Conclusion – The Real Savior**

So here’s the line in the sand. Who’s your Savior—aliens or the Almighty? Who’s your gospel—disclosure documents or the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ? Who’s your blessed hope—an intergalactic traveler or the Son of God splitting the skies?

You can’t have both. You can’t bow to E.T. and Emmanuel. You can’t worship the stars and the Star of Jacob. You can’t believe in Martians and the Messiah. One will kill the other. And in Laodicea, sci-fi has killed Scripture.

So smash the idol. Quit worshipping space fantasies. Quit bowing to aliens. Quit confusing disclosure with revelation. Bow to Christ alone. Because when the skies really split, it won’t be UFOs hovering overhead—it’ll be Jesus Christ descending in power and great glory. And buddy, on that day, every alien fantasy, every sci-fi sermon, every disclosure document will burn in the light of the true and only Savior: Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

### **16 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Tradition**

***Empty rituals, denominational loyalty, and “that’s how we’ve always done it.”***

If there's an idol that slips in quiet, sneaky, and respectable, it's the idol of tradition. Nobody bows before it like they would before a golden calf. Nobody calls it a god. But brother, it sits in more pulpits than preachers do. It lurks in the pews, whispers in committee meetings, and strangles more revivals than the devil ever could with liquor, lust, or laziness. It looks harmless. It looks holy. But it's one of Laodicea's deadliest idols: the idol of tradition.

The Book warned us straight: *"Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition."* (Matthew 15:6). That's Christ Himself talking. You want to know what He hated most in the Pharisees? It wasn't their zeal, their discipline, or their memorization—it was their tradition that replaced the truth. That's exactly where the American church is today.

### **Tradition Dressed Up as Holiness**

Tradition always dresses itself up as holiness. It wears a suit, it carries a hymnal, it talks about "reverence." It doesn't show up waving rainbow flags—it shows up waving a church constitution. It doesn't try to shock you—it tries to suffocate you. It says, "That's how we've always done it," and expects that to carry the same weight as *"Thus saith the Lord."*

Brother, there's a universe of difference between *"That's what the Book says"* and *"That's how we've always done it."* One is inspired, eternal, sharper than a two-edged sword. The other is nothing more than habit dressed up as doctrine. One divides truth from error. The other keeps dead churches running like clockwork while the Spirit of God has long since walked out the back door.

### **Empty Rituals**

Tradition thrives on ritual. Churches have their rituals down to a science: open with a song, a prayer, two more songs, announcements, offering, sermon, invitation, closing hymn. Same order every week, same words every time, same lifeless routine until you could set your watch by it.

Now, there's nothing wrong with order. Paul said, *"Let all things be done decently and in order."* (1 Corinthians 14:40). But order is supposed to serve the Spirit, not replace Him. When the Spirit says preach, preach! When He says sing, sing! When He says shut your mouth and weep at an altar, do it. Tradition says, "Sorry, Holy Ghost, that's not how we've always done it." And the service plods along dead as a doornail.

That's idolatry. You've traded the living God for a dead schedule. You've made a program your master and called it worship.

### **Denominational Loyalty**

And then there's denominational loyalty. Some folks are more Baptist than they are Bible. Some are more Methodist than they are Christian. Some are more Presbyterian than they are saved. And don't even get me started on Catholics—Rome wrote the book on tradition trumping truth.

Denominations build their identities around tradition. Baptists cling to their manuals. Presbyterians clutch their catechisms. Methodists hold fast to their disciplines. Catholics swear by their councils. And every one of them thinks loyalty to their tradition is loyalty to God. Hogwash. The Book says, *"Thy word is truth."* (John 17:17). Not your catechism. Not your manual. Not your council.

Denominational loyalty is just brand worship. It's Coke vs. Pepsi in the religious world. And when you value the label more than the Lord, you've bowed to the idol of tradition.

### **"That's How We've Always Done It"**

The deadliest phrase in the Christian vocabulary isn't cursing—it's, *"That's how we've always done it."* That one line has killed more revivals, buried more ministries, and stifled more churches than liquor, porn, and Hollywood combined.

When God tries to move, tradition pipes up: "That's not how we've always done it." When a preacher tries to preach hard, tradition whispers: "That's not how Pastor So-and-So did it." When someone suggests soul-winning on a Saturday instead of a Sunday, tradition grumbles: "That's not how we've always done it." And the Spirit of God is quenched, the fire goes out, and the church marches on—faithful to nothing but its own dead history.

### **Pharisees Then, Pharisees Now**

Don't forget—the Pharisees were masters of tradition. They added law on top of law, ritual on top of ritual, until the people couldn't breathe without breaking some rule. And when Christ Himself showed up, they missed Him completely. Why? Because He didn't fit their tradition. He healed on the Sabbath. He ate with sinners. He preached with authority, not as the scribes. And instead of repenting, they clung harder to their rituals.

The same thing happens today. A preacher filled with the Spirit shows up and preaches the Book raw, and people panic. “He doesn’t preach like our old pastor. He yells too much. He doesn’t follow the order of service.” That’s Pharisee talk. That’s tradition over truth. That’s idolatry.

### **The Fruit of Tradition**

What’s the fruit of bowing to this idol? Dead churches. Powerless preaching. Lifeless worship. Souls unreached. Generations lost.

Tradition keeps the machinery running while the Spirit leaves. It makes men feel holy while leaving them empty. It convinces people they’re right with God because they followed the routine, not because they repented at the cross. It raises Pharisees instead of prophets, church-goers instead of Christians, fans of the past instead of followers of Christ.

That’s the rotten fruit of the idol of tradition.

### **Tradition in the Family**

And it doesn’t stop at church—it runs through families too. Families cling to tradition like it’s sacred: “This is how Grandma did it, so this is how we do it.” Never mind what the Book says. Never mind if it’s ungodly. Never mind if it’s hypocritical. If Grandma did it, it’s untouchable.

Brother, God doesn’t care about Grandma’s tradition—He cares about truth. If Grandma cooked Sunday lunch but never knew Christ, her tradition won’t save you. If Grandpa prayed before meals but never repented, his tradition won’t save you. Traditions don’t redeem souls—Christ does. And if you cling to your family’s rituals instead of God’s righteousness, you’re bowing to an idol.

### **Christ vs. Tradition**

What did Christ do with tradition? He smashed it. He healed on the Sabbath. He ate with publicans. He forgave sinners without temple sacrifices. He tore down the temple veil with His death. He dismantled the whole religious structure of empty ritual and tradition, and the Pharisees killed Him for it.

And He’s still doing it today. Christ doesn’t care about your denominational rules, your empty routines, your sacred cows. He cares about truth. He cares about repentance. He

cares about worship in Spirit and in truth. Anything else—no matter how respectable, how polished, how “historic”—is an idol He came to smash.

### **God’s Verdict**

What’s God think of the idol of tradition? He already said it: *“In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”* (Matthew 15:9). Vain worship. That’s what tradition produces. A whole church service, a whole denomination, a whole movement—and God calls it vain. Worthless. Empty.

That’s God’s verdict on Laodicea bowing to tradition: vanity. And judgment is coming. Revelation 3 shows Christ on the outside of the Laodicean church, knocking to get back in. Why? Because tradition locked Him out.

### **The Cure**

So what’s the cure? Smash the idol. Quit worshipping routines. Quit bowing to denominational loyalty. Quit clinging to “the way we’ve always done it.” Go back to the Book. Go back to Christ. Go back to the Spirit.

You want revival? It won’t come from a committee meeting. It won’t come from a denominational resolution. It won’t come from polishing the order of service. It’ll come from smashing tradition and letting Christ rule again.

### **Conclusion – Who’s in Charge?**

So here’s the bottom line. Who runs your church—Christ or tradition? Who runs your family—truth or Grandma’s way? Who runs your worship—the Spirit or the schedule?

You can’t have both. You can’t serve Christ and tradition. You can’t cling to the cross and the calendar at the same time. One will kill the other. And in Laodicea, tradition has killed truth.

So smash the idol. Quit bowing to dead rituals. Quit worshipping denominational loyalty. Quit repeating “that’s how we’ve always done it.” Bow to Christ. Bow to truth. Bow to the living God.

Because when the traditions rot, when the denominations crumble, when the rituals fade, the only thing left standing will be Christ and His Word. And brother, that’s enough.

## **17 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Health & Fitness**

### **Gyms, Diets, and Bodies Worshiped Instead of Glorifying God**

If you want to see the modern altar of America, don't head to a cathedral. Walk into a gym. Step inside one of those temples of treadmills and dumbbells, and you'll see worshippers sweating, straining, and sacrificing for their god—the body. It doesn't matter whether it's Gold's Gym, Planet Fitness, CrossFit, or some boutique yoga studio—the ritual's the same. The idol is health. The god is fitness. The worship is self.

The Bible told you straight: *“Bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”* (1 Timothy 4:8). God said bodily exercise has some value, but it's little compared to godliness. Laodicea flipped it. They treat godliness as optional and worship exercise like it's eternal life itself. That's not health—that's idolatry.

### **The Body as an Idol**

Man has always worshipped his body. Romans 1 says they “worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator.” That's bodybuilding, yoga, nutrition obsession, diet cults. It's worshipping the creature—yourself.

Modern Americans spend more money on gyms, supplements, diets, and surgeries than on missions, ministries, and the Word combined. They sculpt their bodies like statues, inject chemicals to preserve their youth, and bow before the mirror like it's a shrine. It's vanity, pure and simple. Ecclesiastes says, *“Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”* But vanity has become America's god.

### **Gyms as Temples**

Think about it: gyms are temples. They've got altars—weight benches. They've got incense—sweat filling the air. They've got priests—trainers in spandex. They've got hymns—pumping music blaring through speakers. And they've got congregations—rows of treadmill saints bowing their heads, not in prayer, but in exhaustion.

People tithe to gyms every month, faithfully paying their memberships even if they never go. They sacrifice hours of their life to their workouts. They evangelize their friends: “You've got

to try this new workout plan! You've got to come to my gym!" They testify about how it changed their life. That's not just fitness—that's religion. That's idolatry.

### **Diets as Doctrines**

And what about diets? Brother, we've got more diet plans than denominations. Keto, paleo, vegan, carnivore, intermittent fasting—it's a smorgasbord of food commandments. Some treat their diet like doctrine: break the rules, and you're a heretic.

Paul nailed it in Colossians 2:21–22: *"Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using; after the commandments and doctrines of men?"* That's diets as doctrines. Now, nothing wrong with eating wisely. Gluttony's a sin. Taking care of your health is fine. But when your food plan becomes your gospel, when you evangelize kale smoothies more than Christ, you've bowed to the idol of health.

### **Fitness Influencers – Modern Prophets**

And then there are the fitness influencers. Half-naked men and women posting their "fitspiration" online, preaching the gospel of health to their millions of followers. Their Bibles are protein shakes, their sacraments are supplements, their heaven is abs, and their hell is obesity. They pose, they preach, they profit. And their followers worship them like prophets.

The Bible warned about this spirit in Philippians 3:19: *"Whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things."* That's Instagram fitness culture in one verse. God calls it shame; Laodicea calls it glory. God calls it carnality; Laodicea calls it health. That's the idol of fitness, and it's damning souls.

### **The Fear of Death Behind It**

Let's be honest—the idol of health isn't about health. It's about fear of death. Men cling to diets, gyms, surgeries, and supplements because they're terrified of dying. They think if they just eat right, exercise enough, and take enough pills, they can dodge the grave.

Hebrews 9:27 says, *"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."* You can't CrossFit your way out of that appointment. You can't diet your way out of it. You can't supplement your way out of it. You'll die no matter how many green smoothies you drink.

The question isn't whether you'll die—it's whether you'll be ready. And the idol of health blinds men to that truth.

### **Christians Bowing to the Idol**

And don't think Christians are innocent. Churches have traded prayer meetings for Zumba classes, Bible studies for health seminars, gospel preaching for "wellness workshops." Pastors preach more about diets than doctrine, more about jogging than justification, more about self-care than self-denial.

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. But that doesn't mean worship the temple—it means worship the God inside. Laodicea misses that. They polish the temple and forget the God. They glorify fitness and forget faith. That's idolatry.

### **The Futility of the Idol**

Here's the kicker: the idol of health doesn't even work. Ecclesiastes 3:20 says, *"All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again."* You can have the best abs in the graveyard, and you'll still rot like everyone else. You can pump iron until your arms snap, but worms will still eat them. You can starve yourself thin, but death will still fatten your coffin.

The idol of health promises immortality but delivers mortality. It promises control but delivers decay. It promises heaven on earth but delivers six feet of dirt. That's idolatry at its most foolish.

### **God's Perspective**

What does God think of this idol? Isaiah 40:6–7 says, *"All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it."* God sees your muscles, your diets, your routines—and He calls them grass. Temporary. Withering. Worthless.

Meanwhile, 1 Timothy 4:8 says godliness profits in this life and the next. Health profits only in this life, and only a little at that. Godliness profits forever. And yet Laodicea trades eternal profit for temporary vanity. That's idolatry.

## **The Cure – Glorify God, Not Your Body**

So what's the cure? Quit worshipping health. Quit bowing to fitness. Quit trusting diets. Use your body as a tool for Christ, not an idol for yourself. Eat wisely, sure. Exercise reasonably, fine. But do it to glorify God, not to glorify flesh.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*” That's the cure. Not health for health's sake. Not fitness for vanity's sake. But health and fitness as tools to glorify God, not idols to replace Him.

## **Conclusion – Who's on the Throne?**

So here's the question. Who's on your throne—Christ or calories? Who rules your life—the cross or CrossFit? Who gets your devotion—the Savior or the scale?

You can't have both. You can't bow to health and holiness. You can't worship fitness and faith. You can't cling to the gym and the gospel. One will kill the other. And in Laodicea, fitness has killed faith.

So smash the idol. Use your body for Christ. Glorify God in your temple. But don't worship the temple. Because one day, no matter how strong, slim, or sculpted you are, that body will die. And the only thing that will matter then is not how many reps you did, but whether you repented and believed in Christ.

So put health in its place, and put Christ on the throne. Because when the gyms close, when the diets fail, when the body breaks, when the coffin closes, the only health that matters is eternal life in Jesus Christ.

## **18 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Tolerance**

### **A Culture That Bows to “Inclusion” While Excluding Christ**

If you want to know America's favorite word right now, it isn't *freedom* anymore. It isn't *truth*. It isn't even *love*. It's *tolerance*. That's the golden calf Laodicea dances around. That's the idol that gets paraded in classrooms, courts, companies, and even churches. “Be tolerant! Be inclusive! Be affirming!”—that's the new gospel. And if you dare stand up with a

Bible and say, “Thus saith the Lord,” the same crowd that preaches tolerance will rip your head off faster than a Pharisee tearing his garments.

The Book nailed it before CNN did: “*And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake.*” (Matthew 10:22). That’s the cost of not bowing to tolerance. You’ll be hated. Because tolerance is the new religion, and Christ is the one thing not tolerated.

### **Tolerance Redefined**

Now let’s get something straight. Real tolerance is putting up with people you disagree with without killing them. That’s biblical—Romans 12:18 says, “*If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*” But Laodicea doesn’t want that kind of tolerance. They’ve redefined it.

Today, tolerance means you must accept, affirm, celebrate, and bow to whatever nonsense the world demands. Don’t just live peaceably with the sinner—call his sin holy. Don’t just let the idolater worship—bow at his altar. Don’t just allow the pervert to live—call his perversion “love.” That’s not tolerance—that’s idolatry.

### **The Inquisition of Inclusion**

Don’t let the slogans fool you. “Inclusion” is a lie. The world doesn’t want inclusion—they want exclusion. Exclude Christ. Exclude truth. Exclude the Bible. The idol of tolerance demands sacrifices, and the first thing on its altar is always the Word of God.

Mention Christ as a historical figure? Fine. Call Him a moral teacher? No problem. But say He’s the only way, the truth, and the life, and suddenly the crowd of tolerant saints turns into a mob with stones in their hands. “Exclusive! Bigot! Intolerant!” That’s the inquisition of inclusion: it preaches openness while shutting the door on the only truth that matters.

### **The Church Bowing to Tolerance**

And of course, Laodicea bends the knee right along with the world. Pulpits have traded “*Thus saith the Lord*” for “*We don’t want to offend anybody.*” Pastors preach “love” without defining it. Churches host interfaith dialogues where Christ gets stuffed in the corner so everyone can feel included. Hymns are swapped out for happy-clappy anthems about unity.

The idol of tolerance has neutered the church. Nobody preaches on hell because it's "offensive." Nobody names sin because it's "intolerant." Nobody calls sodomy an abomination, fornication a sin, or drunkenness a work of the flesh because somebody's feelings might get hurt. And so churches grow big and fat, filled with smiling, lost people marching straight to hell while the preacher pats himself on the back for being "inclusive."

### **The Fruit of Tolerance**

What's the fruit of this idol? Confusion. Chaos. Compromise. Kids grow up with no idea what's right or wrong. Families collapse because nobody will stand against sin. Nations rot because they tolerate everything except truth.

Isaiah 5:20 says, "*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness.*" That's tolerance in one verse. Call abortion "choice." Call sodomy "love." Call drunkenness "fun." Call fornication "normal." And call Bible preaching "hate." That's the rotten fruit of this idol, and America gorges on it daily.

### **Tolerance as False Love**

The idol of tolerance disguises itself as love. "We love everyone, so we affirm everything." But that's not love—that's cruelty. If you see a man drowning and you smile and say, "We affirm your right to drown," you're not loving him—you're condemning him. Real love warns. Real love rebukes. Real love tells the truth even when it hurts.

Christ loved sinners enough to tell them the truth. He told the woman at the well about her fornication. He told the Pharisees about their hypocrisy. He told Nicodemus he had to be born again. That's love. Tolerance says, "Stay as you are." Christ says, "Repent and be saved." The two are not the same.

### **The Antichrist's Tool**

Don't miss this: tolerance is conditioning the world for Antichrist. Revelation says the whole world will wonder after the Beast. How do you get Muslims, Catholics, Protestants, Hindus, Buddhists, and atheists all to worship one man? Easy: tolerance. "Don't divide over doctrine. Don't argue about truth. Just unite around this wonderful leader who loves everybody." That's tolerance preparing the world to bow to the Devil's messiah.

And the churches that bowed to tolerance now will bow to him then. The same pulpits that won't preach Christ exclusively today will accept the Antichrist tomorrow. Tolerance is the grease on the skids to hell.

### **God's Verdict**

What's God think of this idol? Revelation 3 shows it clear. He calls Laodicea "lukewarm," neither hot nor cold. That's tolerance—too cowardly to take a stand, too gutless to preach the truth, too eager to fit in with the world. And Christ says, *"I will spue thee out of my mouth."* That's God's verdict on tolerance: it makes Him sick.

### **Smash the Idol**

So what's the cure? Smash the idol. Quit bowing to inclusion. Quit preaching tolerance. Preach truth. Preach Christ. Preach the exclusivity of the gospel. John 14:6 still stands: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* That's as intolerant as it gets, and that's the truth that saves.

Be kind, yes. Be gracious, yes. But never compromise. Never soften the edge of the sword. Never put tolerance above truth. Because the second you do, you're no longer serving Christ—you're serving an idol.

### **Conclusion – Who Do You Bow To?**

So here's the question. Who do you bow to—Christ or culture? Who do you serve—truth or tolerance? Who do you worship—the God of the Bible, or the idol of inclusion?

You can't have both. You can't serve Christ and compromise. You can't worship truth and tolerance. You can't bow to the cross and the crowd at the same time. One will kill the other. And in Laodicea, tolerance has killed truth.

So smash the idol. Quit bowing to inclusion. Quit worshipping tolerance. Stand for Christ even if the whole world calls you intolerant. Because when the smoke clears, when the idols burn, when the crowds howl, the only thing that will matter is whether you stood with the One they crucified—the intolerant, exclusive, offensive, and only Savior of mankind: Jesus Christ.

## **19 of 20: American Idolatry – The Idol of Digital Identity**

### **Social Media Likes, Followers, and Online Personas as New Golden Calves**

America has always had idols, but never before have they been as shiny, shallow, and sinister as they are now. Forget the golden calf Aaron molded in the wilderness—Laodicea has its own calf, and it glows from a screen in your pocket. It's your *digital self*. Your online persona. Your curated profile. Your followers, likes, and shares. This is the new god of America, and the whole world is bowing down like Israel at Sinai—naked, dancing, and shouting around a glowing calf called *digital identity*.

The Book warned you plain: *“For men shall be lovers of their own selves... boasters, proud...”* (2 Timothy 3:2). Brother, if that doesn't describe Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook in 2025, then throw the whole Bible out. We're living in an age where self is worshiped, not secretly, but openly. Where vanity isn't hidden—it's monetized. And churches are just as guilty as the world, bowing to the idol of online clout while the cross gathers dust.

### **The Golden Calf in Your Hand**

Let's start with the obvious: the smartphone. That glowing rectangle is the modern altar. You bow to it every morning when you check your notifications before you even pray. You bow to it at night when you scroll through nonsense instead of opening the Book. You bow to it when your mood rises and falls depending on who liked your post. That's not a tool anymore—it's an idol.

In Exodus 32, Israel danced around a golden calf, claiming it brought them out of Egypt. Today, Laodicea dances around a glowing screen, claiming it gives them meaning, purpose, and identity. It's the same idolatry—just digital.

### **Likes as Sacrifices**

Every idol requires sacrifice, and digital identity is no different. You sacrifice your time—hours wasted curating content, editing photos, and chasing the next trend. You sacrifice your honesty—filtering your face, lying about your life, hiding your flaws to look perfect online. You sacrifice your soul—trading peace with God for the approval of strangers.

Jesus asked in Mark 8:36, *“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”* Translate that to Laodicea: What shall it profit a man if he shall gain

ten million followers and lose his soul? That's the idol of digital identity, and it's damning a generation.

### **Followers as Disciples**

And don't miss this: followers are disciples. In the Bible, disciples followed Christ. In Laodicea, disciples follow influencers. Their words are quoted like Scripture, their trends copied like commandments, their opinions worshiped like doctrine. The modern "pastor" isn't a man of God in a pulpit—it's a 22-year-old with a ring light preaching on TikTok.

Meanwhile, Christians brag about their follower counts like Paul bragged about converts. Only difference is, Paul's disciples were disciples of Christ; yours are disciples of your vanity. That's not ministry—that's idolatry.

### **Online Personas – The New Graven Image**

Exodus 20:4 warns, "*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.*" Today, you don't carve statues—you curate profiles. You sculpt an image of yourself that isn't real. You filter it, crop it, edit it, brand it. That's your graven image—your online persona. And you bow down to it daily.

People live double lives: their real life and their online life. The online life gets worshiped. The real life gets neglected. The online self is spotless, smiling, and successful. The real self is bitter, broken, and bored. That's the fruit of idolatry—vanity and lies.

### **Churches Bowing to Digital Clout**

And of course, churches aren't innocent. Pastors measure success by followers and views, not by faithfulness and souls saved. Sermons are designed to trend, not to convict. Pulpits are swapped for platforms. Preaching is replaced with content creation. The idol of digital identity has invaded the sanctuary.

The church livestream isn't about reaching the lost—it's about looking good. Worship isn't about God—it's about aesthetics for Instagram clips. Youth groups don't memorize Scripture—they make TikToks. And the pastor brags about "online reach" while ignoring the fact that his sheep are starving. That's idolatry in the house of God.

## **The Fruit of the Idol**

What does this idol produce? Anxiety, depression, envy, pride, loneliness. People scroll through endless feeds of everyone else's highlights, comparing them to their own behind-the-scenes, and they rot with discontent. Suicide rates climb. Mental health collapses. Families fall apart. And still, they bow to the idol every day, convinced more likes will fix the emptiness.

Ecclesiastes 1:2 sums it up: "*Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.*" That's the digital world in one verse: vanity stacked on vanity, dressed up with hashtags.

## **The Devil's Setup**

And don't think the Devil isn't behind this. Revelation 13 shows a world primed to worship an image of the Beast. You think it's coincidence the whole planet is already conditioned to worship digital images? Social media isn't just idolatry—it's rehearsal. It's training the masses to bow to an image and love it. The Antichrist won't have to start from scratch. The whole system is already in place: phones in every hand, eyes glued to glowing idols, hearts conditioned to worship the image.

## **God's Verdict**

What does God say? Isaiah 42:8: "*My glory will I not give to another.*" Yet Laodicea hands God's glory to Instagram feeds, YouTube platforms, and TikTok idols. Jeremiah 2:13: "*They have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.*" That's social media: broken cisterns, leaving people thirsty no matter how many likes they drink.

## **The Cure**

The cure isn't deleting the internet. The cure is smashing the idol. Quit worshipping followers. Quit bowing to likes. Quit sculpting fake personas. Go back to Christ. Your identity isn't in your digital self—it's in your risen Savior. Colossians 3:3 says, "*For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*" That's your identity. Not your profile. Not your platform. Not your followers. Christ.

## **Conclusion – Who Owns You?**

So here's the question: who owns you—Christ or your online persona? Who do you worship—the Savior or your followers? Who do you glorify—the cross or your curated profile?

You can't have both. You can't bow to Christ and clout. You can't serve the Book and the algorithm. You can't worship God and likes. One will kill the other. And in Laodicea, digital identity has killed discipleship.

So smash the idol. Delete what you must. Repent of the vanity. Stop living for likes and start living for the Lord. Because when the servers crash, when the platforms burn, when the followers scatter, the only thing left standing won't be your profile—it'll be the nail-scarred hands of Christ. And brother, He doesn't need your hashtags.

## **20 of 20: American Idolatry – Smash the Idols: Christ Alone**

### ***Final Call to Repentance, Like Gideon Tearing Down Baal's Altar. Christ Versus Every False God of America.***

We've spent nineteen essays dragging Laodicea's idols out into the daylight. We've kicked over golden calves in politics, media, Rome, money, self, entertainment, science, technology, religion, outrage, celebrity preachers, patriotism, youth culture, education, UFOs, tradition, fitness, tolerance, and digital identity. And after all that, you'd think the job was done. But brother, the idols are still standing in American hearts. They're polished. They're adored. They're defended with tears and claws.

And God's call hasn't changed: "*Ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves.*" (Exodus 34:13). That's not a suggestion—that's a command. Smash the idols. Not polish them. Not redecorate them. Not rename them "Christian." Smash them.

Like Gideon in Judges 6, when the angel of the Lord told him to tear down his father's altar to Baal, that's the call right now. Tear down the idols, no matter who hates you for it. Because this isn't about popularity, patriotism, or platforms. This is about Christ alone.

## **Gideon's Example – Tearing Down Baal's Altar**

Judges 6 paints the picture. Israel was in bondage because of their sin. Sound familiar? America's in bondage—debt, drugs, lust, perversion, apostasy. And what did God tell Gideon? Tear down your father's altar to Baal. Start at home. Start with the idol in your own backyard.

That's where revival begins. Not with a campaign. Not with a hashtag. Not with a politician. With smashing the idols right in front of you. Gideon obeyed, and the whole town woke up in outrage: "Who did this?" That's exactly how Laodicea reacts when you expose its idols. Post against Charlie Kirk, and watch professing Christians foam at the mouth. Preach against tolerance, and watch the "inclusive" crowd bare their fangs. Call out tradition, and the Pharisees will sharpen their knives. Smash the idol, and the idolaters will hate you.

But that's the price of obedience. Gideon wasn't called to win friends. He was called to smash idols. And so are we.

### **Christ Versus the Idols**

Every idol America worships has one thing in common—it replaces Christ. Politics gives you candidates instead of the King. Media gives you talk show hosts instead of the Word. Rome gives you the Pope instead of the Savior. Money gives you mammon instead of manna. Self gives you pride instead of the cross. Entertainment gives you spectacle instead of worship. Science gives you Darwin instead of Genesis. Technology gives you Babel instead of Bethel. Religion gives you tradition instead of truth.

And the list goes on. Outrage replaces forgiveness. Celebrity preachers replace Christ's humility. Patriotism replaces heavenly citizenship. Youth culture replaces discipleship. Education replaces discernment. UFOs replace the Blessed Hope. Tradition replaces the Spirit. Health replaces holiness. Tolerance replaces truth. Digital identity replaces eternal identity.

At the end of the day, it's Christ versus every idol. And Laodicea almost always picks the idol.

### **The Call to Repentance**

God isn't asking America to balance Christ with its idols. He's demanding repentance. Total, absolute repentance. "*Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*" (Exodus 20:3). That's the first commandment, and it's the one Laodicea breaks every second of every day.

Repentance means smashing the idols. Not trimming them down. Not compromising with them. Not baptizing them with Christian names. Smash them. Just like Josiah did in 2 Kings 23—he broke down altars, burned idols, crushed groves, and turned them to dust. That’s real repentance. That’s what God requires.

### **Why Idols Must Fall**

You can’t serve Christ and idols. Jesus said it plain in Matthew 6:24: “*No man can serve two masters.*” It’s impossible. You’ll hate the one and love the other. You’ll cling to the one and despise the other. America clings to its idols and despises Christ. That’s why judgment is coming.

And don’t think the idols will protect you. When Babylon fell, the idols fell with it. When Rome fell, the idols fell with it. When America falls—and it will—the idols of money, entertainment, technology, tolerance, and digital clout will fall into the dust right along with it. The only one standing will be Christ. Smash the idols now, or watch God smash them in judgment later.

### **Idolaters in the Church**

The tragedy is, it isn’t just the world bowing—it’s the church. Pulpits decorated with flags, screens, smoke machines, and social media feeds. Sermons designed to tickle ears instead of prick hearts. Churches measuring themselves by trends instead of truth. Preachers bragging about online followers instead of heavenly crowns. That’s idolatry in the temple, just like Ezekiel 8—elders worshipping the sun in God’s house.

And God’s verdict on Laodicea is written already: lukewarm, nauseating, ready to be spewed out. Why? Because it chose idols over Christ.

### **Christ Alone**

Here’s the final call: Christ alone. No idols. No substitutes. No competition.

He alone is the Creator, not Darwin. He alone is the King, not Washington. He alone is the Rock, not Rome. He alone is the Bread of Life, not Wall Street. He alone is the Savior, not some alien. He alone is the Truth, not tolerance. He alone is your identity, not your Instagram profile.

Acts 4:12 says it plain: *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”* Christ alone saves. Not politics, not patriotism, not health, not tradition, not self, not science, not Rome, not tech, not UFOs, not tolerance, not digital clout. Christ alone.

### **The Cost of Smashing Idols**

Let’s be clear—smashing idols will cost you. Gideon got hated for it. Josiah got mocked. Paul got stoned. Jesus got crucified. If you take a stand against America’s idols, don’t expect applause. Expect rage. Expect slander. Expect betrayal by professing Christians. Expect to be called divisive, hateful, extreme.

But better to be hated for smashing idols than loved for polishing them. Better to be despised with Christ than applauded with Baal. Better to be rejected by Laodicea than spewed out by Christ.

### **The Coming Judgment**

Don’t miss the timing. Judgment is coming. The idols will fall whether you smash them or not. Revelation 18 shows Babylon falling, and the merchants of the earth weeping as their idols crumble. That’s America’s future. The digital idols will go offline. The financial idols will crash. The entertainment idols will burn. The political idols will collapse.

And in that day, the only question will be: did you stand with the idols, or with Christ?

### **Smash the Idols**

So here’s the conclusion, the finale, the exclamation mark on this whole series: smash the idols. Tear them down like Gideon. Grind them to dust like Josiah. Crucify them with Christ. Burn them, bury them, abandon them.

Stop bowing to the idols of politics, media, Rome, money, self, entertainment, science, technology, religion, outrage, celebrity preachers, patriotism, youth culture, education, UFOs, tradition, fitness, tolerance, and digital identity. Stop playing games with Laodicea. Stop loving the idols more than Christ.

Choose Christ alone. Preach Christ alone. Live Christ alone. Die Christ alone. Because when the smoke clears, the idols will be gone, but the King will still be standing.

## **Final Word**

Joshua 24:15 still stands: *“Choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”* That’s the call. Smash the idols. Serve the Lord. Christ alone.

## **Bonus Essay: American Idolatry – The Idol of Sex**

### **Porn Culture, Lust-Driven “Love,” and the Redefining of Morality**

If you want to know what America really worships, you don’t have to peek into a church building. Just flip open a web browser, scroll a TikTok feed, or walk past the magazine rack in a grocery store. America’s god isn’t Christ, it’s carnality. The idol isn’t on a carved pedestal, it’s plastered across screens in high definition. It’s sex. Raw, cheap, mechanical sex.

The Book warned you: *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves... without natural affection... incontinent.”* (2 Timothy 3:1–3). That’s the twenty-first century in a nutshell. Men have traded truth for thrills, holiness for hedonism, and Christ for carnality. Sex is the idol Laodicea bows to with both knees bent, and the altar is glowing in every living room.

## **Pornography: The Digital Altar**

Pornography is the biggest idol factory the world has ever seen. Bigger than Baal, bigger than Hollywood, bigger than Rome. It’s a trillion-dollar industry built on the lust of the flesh, and Americans worship at its altar daily. Every click is a sacrifice, every subscription a tithe, every addiction a testimony to how deep the idol runs.

And don’t fool yourself—this isn’t just “out there” in the world. It’s in the church. Deacons, pastors, missionaries, pew-warmers—bowing to the idol of porn in secret while singing hymns in public. That’s why pulpits are powerless, homes are broken, and prayers hit the ceiling and die. You can’t serve Christ and pornography. One will kill the other.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:28, *“Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”* That means half the church is living in digital adultery, bowing to the idol of porn while pretending to love Christ. That’s idolatry.

### **Lust-Driven “Love”**

And it isn’t just porn. The whole culture has redefined love as lust. They’ve confused covenant with chemistry, devotion with dopamine, holiness with hormones. “Love” means swiping right. “Love” means hooking up. “Love” means satisfying your flesh with whoever, whenever, however. That’s not love—that’s lust.

1 John 4:8 says, *“God is love.”* That’s love defined—sacrificial, holy, faithful, pure. But Laodicea says, *“Lust is love.”* So fornication is celebrated, adultery is normalized, sodomy is legalized, and perversion is protected. That’s the idol of sex, and America worships it in every movie, song, advertisement, and app.

### **Redefining Morality**

The idol of sex doesn’t just corrupt—it redefines morality itself. Sin becomes “preference.” Abomination becomes “orientation.” Fornication becomes “dating.” Adultery becomes “an affair.” Perversion becomes “pride.” That’s Romans 1 all over again: *“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools... wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts.”*

America doesn’t blush anymore. Jeremiah 6:15 says, *“Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush.”* That’s America 2025. A nation that can’t blush because its idol is sex.

### **The Fruit of the Idol**

What’s the fruit of this idol? Broken homes. Fatherless kids. Skyrocketing STDs. Abortion by the millions. Suicide, depression, trafficking, abuse. Men enslaved to lust, women enslaved to objectification, children groomed into confusion. That’s not freedom—that’s bondage. That’s not love—that’s slavery.

Proverbs 6:32 says, *“Whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.”* That’s the fruit. Destroyed souls, destroyed families, destroyed nations. All because America bows to the idol of sex.

## **Churches Compromising**

And don't think the church hasn't bent the knee. Sermons avoid calling fornication sin. Youth pastors dodge the word "abomination." Hymns are swapped for pop songs about "love." Whole denominations split because they'd rather affirm sodomy than preach holiness. That's Laodicea bowing to the idol of sex.

And pulpits are full of cowards who'd rather keep their paycheck than preach purity. Paul told Timothy, "*Keep thyself pure.*" (1 Timothy 5:22). But purity doesn't trend on Instagram. So pastors preach "self-love" instead of self-denial, "authenticity" instead of holiness, "inclusion" instead of repentance. That's compromise. That's idolatry.

## **The Devil's Strategy**

Make no mistake—the idol of sex isn't just cultural, it's satanic. Revelation 17 shows a great whore sitting on many waters, deceiving the nations with fornication. That's not just prophecy—it's practice. The Devil knows lust enslaves. He knows sex blinds. He knows if he can trap a generation in fornication, he can keep them from the truth. That's why pornography is free, fornication is celebrated, and sodomy is protected. It's conditioning the world to bow to the Antichrist, the ultimate fornicator, the man of sin.

## **God's Verdict**

What does God think of this idol? Hebrews 13:4 says, "*Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*" Judgment—that's God's verdict. Proverbs 5 warns about the strange woman whose lips drop honey but whose end is bitter as wormwood. Romans 1 says God gave men up to vile affections and reprobate minds.

This isn't a game. God will judge this idol. He already is. STDs, broken families, cultural collapse—that's just the down payment. Hell is the final judgment for those who refuse to repent.

## **Smash the Idol**

So what's the cure? Smash the idol. Repent of fornication. Repent of adultery. Repent of pornography. Repent of perversion. Flee youthful lusts. Run to Christ. 1 Corinthians 6:18

says, “*Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*”

Quit bowing to lust and start bowing to Christ. Quit worshipping sex and start worshipping the Savior. Quit redefining love and start living God’s love. Quit hiding behind screens and start walking in the Spirit.

### **Christ Alone Satisfies**

Here’s the truth: sex doesn’t satisfy. Porn doesn’t satisfy. Fornication doesn’t satisfy. It leaves you emptier every time. The only One who satisfies is Christ. John 4 shows the woman at the well, broken by five marriages and one live-in boyfriend. Christ didn’t offer her another relationship—He offered her living water. That’s the cure. Not more lust. Not more idols. Christ alone.

### **Conclusion – Who Owns You?**

So here’s the final question. Who owns you—Christ or carnality? Who do you worship—the cross or your cravings? Who do you love—the Savior or your lust?

You can’t have both. You can’t bow to sex and to Christ. You can’t worship lust and the Lord. You can’t cling to fornication and the Father. One will kill the other. And in Laodicea, lust has killed love.

So smash the idol. Tear it down. Burn the porn. Repent of fornication. Reject the lies of culture. Bow to Christ alone. Because when the lights go out, when the lust fades, when the body dies, the only thing left standing won’t be your cravings—it’ll be Christ. And brother, He’s the only One worth bowing to.

### **Bonus Essay: American Idolatry – The Idol of Music**

#### ***Worship of Celebrities, Concerts as Churches, and the Christian Music Industry*** ***Bowing to Fame***

If you want to see America’s biggest religion outside of politics and pornography, just turn on the radio, flip open Spotify, or peek at a stadium packed with thousands of screaming

fans. What you'll find is worship—not of God, but of music. America bows to beats, melodies, and idols with guitars slung over their shoulders. They don't call it worship, but brother, that's exactly what it is.

The Book said it plain: *“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.”* (Colossians 3:17). But America says, “Whatsoever ye do, do it in the name of fame, fortune, and flesh.” Music isn't just entertainment anymore—it's idolatry.

### **Concerts as Cathedrals**

Walk into an arena for a rock concert or a pop star's tour, and you're not in an entertainment venue—you're in a cathedral. The lights dim like candles. The crowd lifts their hands like a congregation. The singer takes the stage like a priest. The speakers thunder like an organ. And the fans lose their minds, screaming, weeping, fainting, like worshippers overcome in “revival.”

Only difference is, it isn't the Holy Ghost moving—it's the flesh. It's not worship of God—it's worship of man. And it isn't tongues of fire—it's smoke machines and pyrotechnics. That's not a concert—that's a counterfeit church service.

### **Celebrities as Idols**

And who are the gods of this church? The celebrities. Musicians are worshiped like prophets. Their lyrics are quoted like Scripture. Their lifestyles are copied like commandments. Their deaths spark more mourning than Christ's crucifixion. Elvis had women fainting at his concerts like they were slain in the spirit. The Beatles got hailed as “more popular than Jesus.” Michael Jackson had crowds weeping and convulsing like they were at Pentecost. That's not fandom—that's idolatry.

And it hasn't slowed down. Pop stars like Beyoncé get called “Queen” and worshiped as cultural saviors. Rappers are hailed as prophets of the streets. Country singers are idolized as saints of small-town America. Each genre has its idols, and America bows to them without shame.

### **Lyrics as Liturgy**

What about the lyrics? Music teaches more doctrine in America than pulpits do. Songs preach lust, greed, rebellion, violence, and pride. They catechize kids before they can read. By the time a child is ten, he's memorized more sinful lyrics than Bible verses. That's not entertainment—that's indoctrination.

And Christians are no better. Swap out the filth for “Christian contemporary,” and you still get lyrics about feelings over truth, vibes over doctrine, and choruses repeated fifty times instead of meat from the Book. That’s not worship—that’s emotional manipulation. The idol isn’t Christ—it’s experience.

### **Christian Music Industry – Bowing to Fame**

And don’t get me started on the Christian music industry. Brother, that machine is as corrupt as Hollywood. Labels push image over holiness, sales over souls, fame over faith. Worship leaders want spotlights, not service. Bands want tours, not truth. Singers want Grammys, not godliness.

The Book warns, *“For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”* (John 12:43). That’s Christian celebrities to a tee. They bow to fame, to applause, to the crowd. And pulpits eat it up, inviting them to perform while sermons shrink and doctrine disappears. That’s idolatry in the sanctuary.

### **Music’s Power**

Now don’t misunderstand—music has power. God created it. David played his harp and drove away evil spirits from Saul (1 Samuel 16:23). The Psalms are full of songs written to glorify God. But when that power is perverted, it enslaves instead of frees. It exalts flesh instead of Christ. It hypnotizes instead of edifies.

Satan himself was created with pipes and tabrets (Ezekiel 28:13). He was heaven’s musician before he became hell’s liar. You think it’s an accident music drives sin? You think it’s a coincidence every major movement of rebellion—Woodstock, punk, rap, pop—was fueled by music? That’s not chance. That’s the Devil using his old trade to lead men into idolatry.

### **The Fruit of the Idol**

What’s the fruit of music worship? Look around. Rebellion, fornication, drugs, suicide, violence. Rap glorifies murder. Pop glorifies fornication. Country glorifies booze. Rock glorifies rebellion. And the fruit rots every culture it touches.

Even “Christian” music bears rotten fruit when it bows to the idol of fame. Shallow songs breed shallow worshippers. Repetitive choruses breed empty Christians. Stage-driven

worship breeds spotlight Christians who live for applause instead of the altar. That's not revival—that's rot.

### **Churches Copying Concerts**

And of course, Laodicea copies the world. Churches dim the lights, crank the amps, blast the fog machines, and call it worship. Congregations stand with their hands in the air, not because the Spirit of God is moving, but because the bass is rattling their bones. Worship teams strut the stage like rock bands, while doctrine is drowned out by drum kits. That's not worship—that's idolatry with a Jesus sticker slapped on top.

Amos 6:5 condemns Israel for inventing instruments "like David," but not for the Lord. That's modern church music—using David's instruments without David's devotion. They want the sound, not the Spirit.

### **God's Verdict**

What's God think of this idol? Amos 5:23 says, "*Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.*" God isn't impressed with your set list. He isn't moved by your perfect pitch. He doesn't care about your harmonies. If your heart is idolatrous, He calls your worship noise.

And Isaiah 14 shows the fall of Lucifer, the original musician. His music didn't save him—it damned him. That's God's verdict on the idol of music: it leads to pride, rebellion, and judgment.

### **Smash the Idol**

So what's the cure? Smash the idol. Quit worshipping celebrities. Quit bowing to concerts. Quit chasing Christian fame. Use music for God's glory, not your ego. Sing hymns that teach doctrine. Write songs that preach truth. Worship with Spirit and truth, not style and trends.

Ephesians 5:19 says, "*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*" That's music done right—directed to the Lord, not to man.

## **Conclusion – Who Gets the Glory?**

So here's the question. Who gets the glory—Christ or celebrities? Who gets the worship—God or guitarists? Who gets the focus—the cross or the concert?

You can't have both. You can't serve Christ and clout. You can't worship God and gigs. You can't bow to the Savior and the stage. One will kill the other. And in Laodicea, music has killed worship.

So smash the idol. Quit bowing to beats. Quit worshipping performers. Quit confusing concerts with church. Bow to Christ alone. Because when the music fades, when the idols burn, when the spotlights go dark, the only One still standing will be the Lord of Glory. And brother, He's the only One worth singing about.

## **Bonus Essay: American Idolatry – The Idol of Nature**

### **Environmentalism, Climate Change Religion, and Mother Earth Replacing Father God**

If you want to see America's latest golden calf, you don't have to flip to Hollywood or Washington—just check the next climate rally. The idol isn't a statue of Baal; it's a recycled paper sign screaming "*Save the Planet!*" The god isn't Jehovah; it's "Mother Earth." The priests aren't Levites; they're scientists in lab coats and politicians in suits. And the altar? It's every recycling bin, carbon tax, and solar panel shoved down your throat with religious zeal.

The Book told you plain: "*They worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*" (Romans 1:25). That's the idol of nature in one verse. Men turning their backs on the Creator and bowing to creation. Trees, oceans, animals, the climate—worshiped, adored, and treated as more sacred than God Himself.

## **Mother Earth vs. Father God**

America's new religion doesn't preach "Our Father, which art in heaven." It preaches "Our Mother, which art in the soil." You can say "Gaia," "Mother Earth," or "the Universe," and nobody bats an eye. But say "Jesus Christ," and you'll start a riot. That's not science—that's idolatry.

Scripture calls God “the LORD of heaven and earth” (Acts 17:24). But Laodicea booted Him off the throne and replaced Him with dirt. Instead of “Father God,” they worship “Mother Earth.” Instead of fearing the Creator, they fear climate change. Instead of trusting the Word, they trust weather models. That’s not stewardship—that’s spiritual adultery.

### **Environmentalism as Religion**

Make no mistake—environmentalism isn’t a movement; it’s a religion. It’s got its prophets (Greta Thunberg, Al Gore). It’s got its sacred texts (*An Inconvenient Truth*, UN reports). It’s got its priests (scientists, climate activists). It’s got its rituals (Earth Day, recycling, veganism). It’s got its sacraments (carbon offsets, electric cars). And it’s got its hell—global warming—and its heaven—a carbon-free utopia.

That’s not science—it’s theology. Only problem is, it’s theology without God. A man-made religion built on fear, guilt, and works righteousness. Do enough “green” works, recycle enough bottles, drive the right car, and maybe you’ll be “saved.” That’s the idol of nature, and it’s just as false as Baal, Molech, or Ashtoreth.

### **Climate Change as Gospel**

What about climate change? It’s preached like gospel truth. Repent (of fossil fuels). Believe (the scientists). Confess (your carbon footprint). Do penance (buy solar panels). Preach the good news (the planet can be saved). And evangelize the lost (shame your neighbor for driving a gas guzzler).

That’s not science—it’s religion. And the “salvation” it promises isn’t eternal life; it’s a few more decades of dirt before it all burns anyway. 2 Peter 3:10 already told you how this ends: “*The earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*” No amount of wind turbines or carbon credits is going to stop that. God already wrote the final chapter, and it ends in fire.

### **Animals Above Men**

One of the ugliest fruits of this idol is how it exalts animals above men. Kill an eagle egg, and you’ll go to prison. Kill a baby in the womb, and you’ll be praised for “choice.” That’s idolatry in its rawest form. Romans 1:31 calls it being “without natural affection.” Men care more about whales than widows, more about turtles than toddlers, more about polar bears

than people. That's what happens when you worship creation instead of the Creator—your values get flipped upside down.

### **Nature Worship in the Church**

And don't think the church hasn't bowed right along. Sermons about "creation care" replace sermons about Calvary. Hymns about the cross are swapped for hymns about the earth. Christian schools push recycling and carbon footprints more than repentance and faith. Whole denominations jump on the climate bandwagon because they fear man more than God. That's Laodicea—lukewarm, green, and useless.

The Bible calls us stewards of creation, not worshippers of it. Genesis 1:28 says God gave man dominion over the earth. Dominion, not devotion. Use the earth wisely, yes. Worship it, no. But Laodicea prefers Gaia to God, so it bows to dirt instead of Deity.

### **The Devil's Strategy**

Why is the idol of nature so powerful? Because it gives men a religion without repentance. You can feel righteous without being born again. You can feel holy without the blood of Christ. You can save the planet while damning your soul. That's the Devil's perfect setup.

Revelation 13 says the whole world will worship the Beast. How do you get billions of people—atheists, Hindus, Muslims, Catholics, Protestants—to worship one man? You give them a shared idol. And what better idol than the earth itself? Everybody lives here. Everybody depends on it. Everybody fears losing it. The idol of nature is the perfect conditioning tool for the Antichrist's one-world religion.

### **God's Verdict**

What does God think of this idol? Isaiah 40:22 says, *"It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth... that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain."* God isn't impressed with the earth—it's His footstool (Isaiah 66:1). He made it, He sustains it, and He'll burn it when He's done with it.

Psalms 24:1 says, *"The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof."* That means it's not yours to worship. It's His to own. And He already told you it won't last forever. So worshipping the earth is like worshipping a rental car—it's temporary, it's wearing out, and it's going back to the Owner.

## **The Futility of the Idol**

The idol of nature doesn't even deliver what it promises. Despite decades of activism, the climate still changes, disasters still strike, and death still comes. Men bow to dirt while rotting in their own sin. They fight to save trees while their souls burn. They cling to the planet while ignoring the cross. That's futility. That's idolatry.

## **Smash the Idol**

So what's the cure? Smash the idol. Quit bowing to Mother Earth. Quit treating climate change like gospel. Quit worshipping animals above men. Quit confusing stewardship with worship.

Take care of what God gave you, sure. Don't be a fool with resources, fine. But never let creation replace the Creator. Worship the One who made the earth, not the earth itself. Fear the God who controls the weather, not the weather reports. Trust the Savior who can save your soul, not the scientists who can't save themselves.

## **Christ Alone**

Here's the final word: Christ alone. He is the Creator (John 1:3). He is the Sustainer (Colossians 1:17). He is the Judge (Acts 17:31). And He is the Redeemer (Revelation 21:1). The earth won't save you. Climate change won't save you. Gaia won't save you. Christ alone saves.

Revelation 21 promises a new heaven and a new earth, not this one patched up by solar panels. You want to be part of that? Repent and believe the gospel. Anything else is bowing to idols.

## **Conclusion – Dirt or Deity?**

So here's the bottom line: who do you worship—dirt or Deity? Who do you fear—climate change or Christ? Who do you trust—Mother Earth or Father God?

You can't have both. You can't bow to Gaia and to God. You can't worship the cross and the climate. You can't love the earth and hate its Maker. One will kill the other. And in Laodicea, nature worship has killed faith.

So smash the idol. Burn the altar. Quit bowing to dirt and start bowing to Deity. Because when the storms come, when the earth shakes, when the heavens roll back like a scroll, it won't be Gaia standing in judgment—it'll be Christ. And brother, He doesn't share His throne with dirt.

## **Conclusion: The Shattered Altars of America**

### **A Final Word on Idols, Judgment, and Christ Alone**

We've marched through twenty idols, brother. We've dragged them out, stripped their makeup, and smashed them in the street for all to see. Politics, media, Rome, money, self, entertainment, science, technology, religion, outrage, celebrity preachers, patriotism, youth culture, education, UFOs, tradition, fitness, tolerance, digital clout—you name it. Every last one of them exposed, ridiculed, and condemned by the Book. And if after all this you still clutch your idols to your chest like Rachel hiding her teraphim under the saddle (Genesis 31), then God help you—you've chosen dust over Deity.

### **The Pattern Never Changes**

From Genesis to Revelation, man's problem has never been ignorance—it's idolatry. Adam didn't need a smartphone to rebel. Israel didn't need Netflix to dance around a calf. Rome didn't need TikTok to worship Caesar. Man will always trade the Creator for creation, truth for trinkets, glory for garbage. And America is no exception. She's just dressed her idols in red, white, and blue, given them Wi-Fi, and slapped a cross-shaped sticker on the back.

The pattern never changes: when a nation bows to idols, judgment follows. Always. No exceptions.

### **The Rotten Fruit of Laodicea**

Look at the fruit: powerless churches, perverted pulpits, prayerless Christians, packed stadiums, empty altars. Divorce, suicide, drugs, fornication, apostasy. Kids who know every pop lyric but can't find Genesis. Pastors who know how to trend online but can't weep over souls. Politicians quoted more than Paul. Patriotism sung louder than praise. Fitness worshiped more than faith. That's not revival—that's rot. That's Laodicea: "*rich, and*

*increased with goods, and have need of nothing,”* while Christ is on the outside knocking (Revelation 3:17–20).

### **The Fire Is Coming**

And don't think these idols will stand forever. They won't. Revelation 18 shows the whole system crashing in one hour. The idols of Babylon burn, the merchants howl, the kings of the earth weep, and heaven rejoices. That's America's future if she doesn't repent. The fire is coming, whether you recycle or not, whether you trend or not, whether you chant "Save the planet" or not.

2 Peter 3:10 says, *"The elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."* That's God's climate change plan. The only "green new deal" that matters is the New Earth in Revelation 21. And you won't get there bowing to idols.

### **Christ Alone**

So here's the bottom line: Christ versus the idols. That's the fight. That's the choice. That's the fork in the road.

Every idol we've named promises life but delivers death. Politics promises salvation but brings corruption. Media promises truth but spews lies. Rome promises unity but delivers bondage. Money promises security but evaporates overnight. Self promises happiness but ends in emptiness. Entertainment promises joy but breeds despair. Science promises progress but leads to perdition. Technology promises utopia but builds Babel. Religion promises heaven but damns men to hell. Tolerance promises love but breeds hate. Digital clout promises identity but leaves you nameless in eternity.

But Christ—He promises eternal life and delivers it. He promises forgiveness and secures it with His blood. He promises heaven and seals it with His Spirit. He promises rest and gives it freely to the weary. He promises Himself—and He never fails.

### **Smash the Idols**

The call is simple: smash the idols. Tear them down like Gideon. Grind them to powder like Moses. Burn them like Josiah. Repent of them, forsake them, and replace them with Christ alone.

- Smash the idol of politics and cling to the King of kings.
- Smash the idol of money and trust the riches of His grace.
- Smash the idol of self and take up your cross.
- Smash the idol of entertainment and worship in Spirit and truth.
- Smash the idol of tradition and obey the Book.
- Smash the idol of tolerance and preach Christ the only way.
- Smash the idol of digital identity and find your life hid with Christ in God.

Idols break easy under the weight of the cross. But you've got to pick up the hammer.

### **Who's on the Throne?**

So I'll leave you with one question—the same question Elijah threw at Israel on Mount Carmel: *“How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.”* (1 Kings 18:21).

That's the issue. Who's God—Christ or your idols? Who sits on the throne—Jesus or Laodicea's golden calves? Who gets your heart—Heaven's King or earth's trash?

You can't serve both. You can't cling to idols and to Christ. You can't bow to America's gods and to the God of the Bible. One will kill the other. And brother, Christ won't share His throne with anyone.

### **Final Word**

The series ends here, but the fight doesn't. Tomorrow, the idols will still be there—on your phone, in your newsfeed, in your church, in your heart. The question is whether you'll smash them or serve them.

As for me, I'll take the sledgehammer. I'll smash the idols. I'll serve Christ alone. Because when America burns, when Babylon falls, when the idols crumble into dust, the only thing left standing will be the Lamb of God. And He's worth more than all the idols in this rotten world put together.

So choose now. Idols or Christ. Vanity or victory. America's gods or Heaven's King. Smash the idols. Serve the Lord. Christ alone.

