

**THE WEEK OF
April 5th, 2010**



**Jesus
Vs.
The American Idolater
Part 3
II Kings 18:4**

"He removed the high places and broke the [sacred] pillars, cut down the wooden images and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan."

II Kings 18:4

There is a strange idea that, at first consideration, may seem internally contradictory: Bibliolatry. The meaning, in light of the study we find ourselves in, should be immediately obvious. It proposes that the very book which reveals to us the nature of God, can become an idol. Now, whether or not you agree with the possibility of this form of idolatry, it brings up a really important truth: Even something inherently good can become an idol. And really, can't we say that of almost all the things that we are prone to idolize? Last week we mentioned pleasure, power, and money as those which tempt us. Consider these again and recognize that these are not inherently idols; until they are corrupted. This was the situation with Israel beginning in Numbers 21:4-9. We find Moses and the people of Israel being healed by God by simply looking upon a bronze serpent hanging on a pole. The bronze serpent was a good thing that brought healing. The people should have given glory to the Lord, praised Him for the healing through the serpent and then gotten rid of it. But they didn't. Now, in II Kings 18, it's centuries later and the people now worship the bronze serpent, instead of the One who healed through it. So King Hezekiah has it destroyed. How subtly and slowly the good things become idols. It could be a relationship, a person, an experience or something else. Whatever it is, we have to make sure we take our eyes off the creation and keep them on the Creator.

**Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day *example:*
*If it's the 1st day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)***

Mon: *A Good Thing...*: Numbers 21:4-9 "...make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole..."

Tue: *...Becomes an Idol:* II Kings 18:4 "...and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made..."

Wed: I Corinthians 10

Thu: I Corinthians 11

Fri: I Corinthians 12-13

Discussion Questions for Bible Café:

1. Is it possible for the Bible to become an idol? How about other "good" things and experiences that we have. How do these become idols? How can a relationship become an idol?

2. Why are we so prone to idolatry? What is a graven image and how is it related to this tendency in humanity?

3. How do we avoid good things becoming idols?

Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):