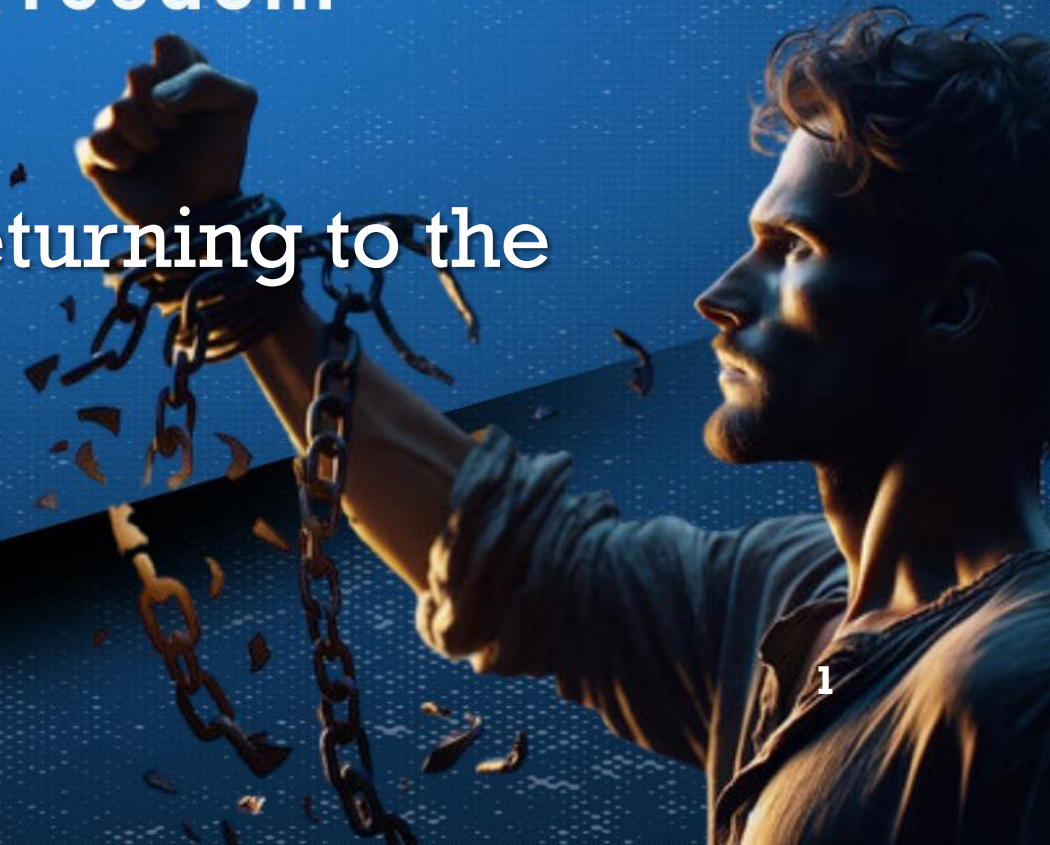


# GALATIANS

The Gospel & True Freedom

Study 9 The Folly of Returning to the  
Slavery of the Law

Galatians 4:8-11





# STRUCTURE

1. The True Gospel (Gal 1-2)
2. The Inclusive Gospel (Gal 3-4)
3. The Liberating Gospel (Gal 5-6)

# THE DEFENCE OF THE GOSPEL

Desertion from Paul's gospel is desertion from God Gal 1-2



Reception of Gospel is by faith not works Gal 3:1-5



Argument from Abraham –Faith Gal 3:6-14



Argument from Salvation history--Priority of Covenant over  
Temporary nature of the Law

The law was supposed to point towards Jesus not provide  
alternative route to righteousness Gal 3:14-4:11





**Given God's Spirit**

**Children of  
Abraham**

**Adopted Sons of God**



# THE INCLUSIVE GOSPEL

Study 5 Gal 3:1-5

We are not only saved by gospel  
but we grow through it too

Study 6 Gal 3:6-18

Abraham : The Covenant and Faith

Study 7 Gal 3:19-29

The Law and Faith



# THE INCLUSIVE GOSPEL

Study 8 Galatians 4:1-7 Sonship in Christ

Study 9 Galatians 4:8-11 The folly of returning to the Law

Study 10 Galatians 4:12-20 Gospel Centered Ministry

Study 11 Galatians 4:21-31 The Choice of Two Sons



Galatians 4:8-11 (ESV) 8 Formerly, when you

did not know God,

you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.

9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and

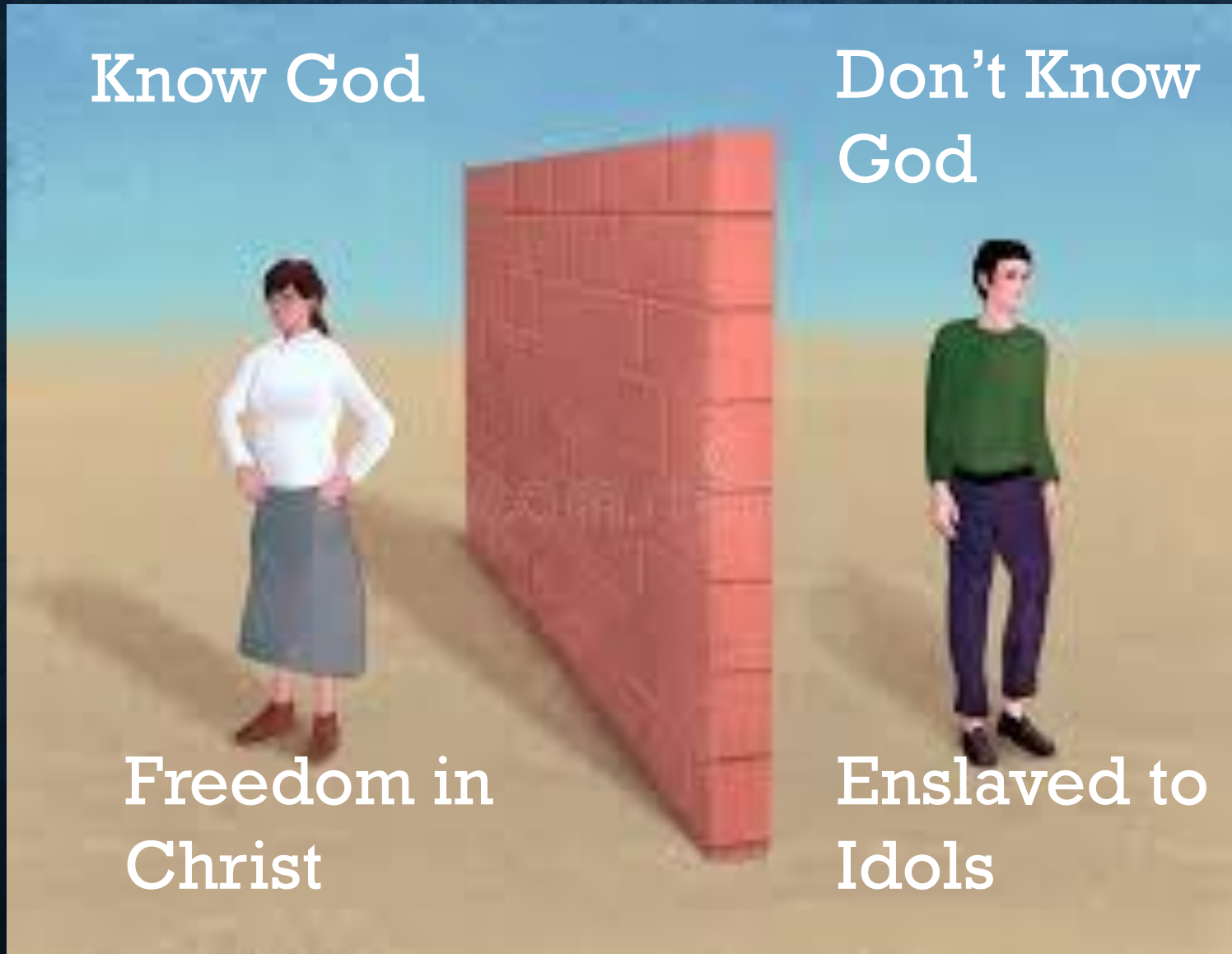
worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

10 You observe days and months and seasons and years!

11 I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.



# THERE IS NO MIDDLE GROUND





# ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD.

Present world order

Demonic forces

## 4 ELEMENTS

EARTH



WATER



AIR



FIRE



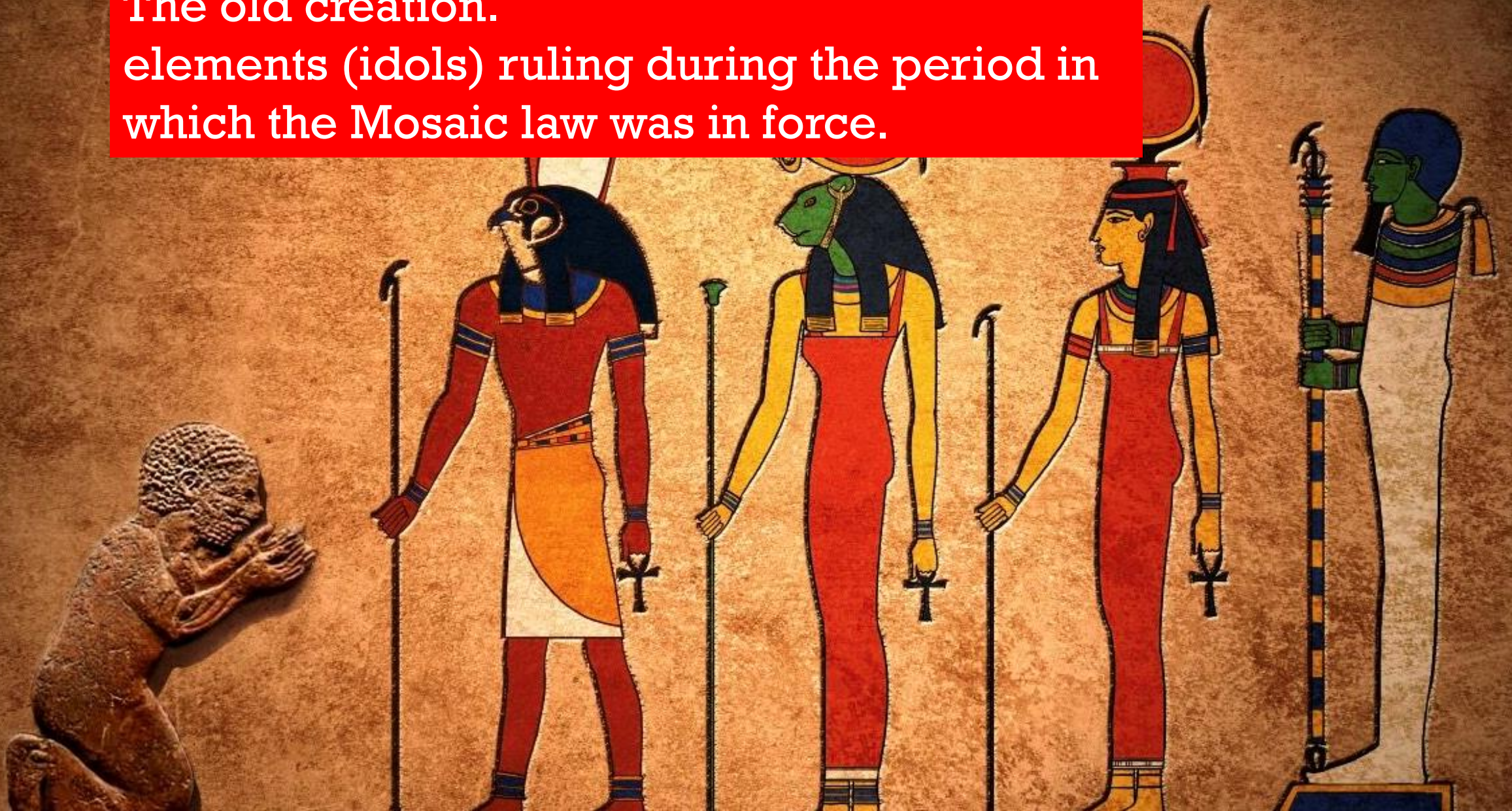
Image credit <https://www.tekedia.com/the-four-elements-and-astrological-readings/>



Image credit <https://spiritualwickedness.com/Principalities.html>



The old creation.  
elements (idols) ruling during the period in  
which the Mosaic law was in force.





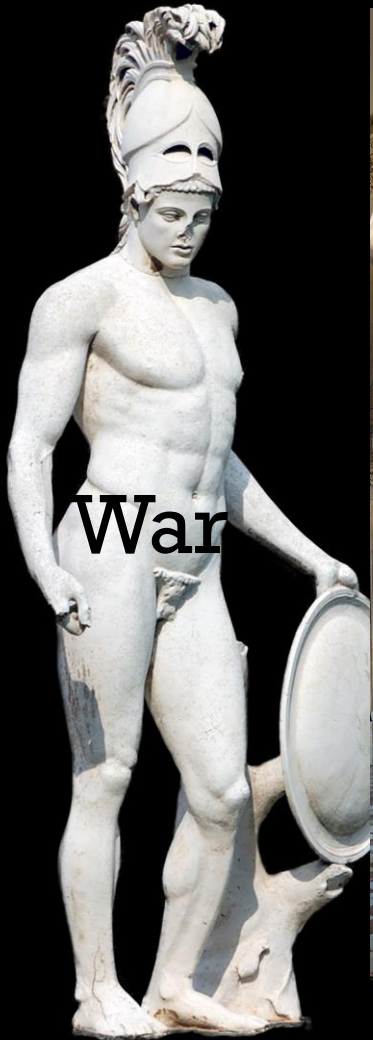
Areas

Artemis

Bacchus

Nike

Poseidon



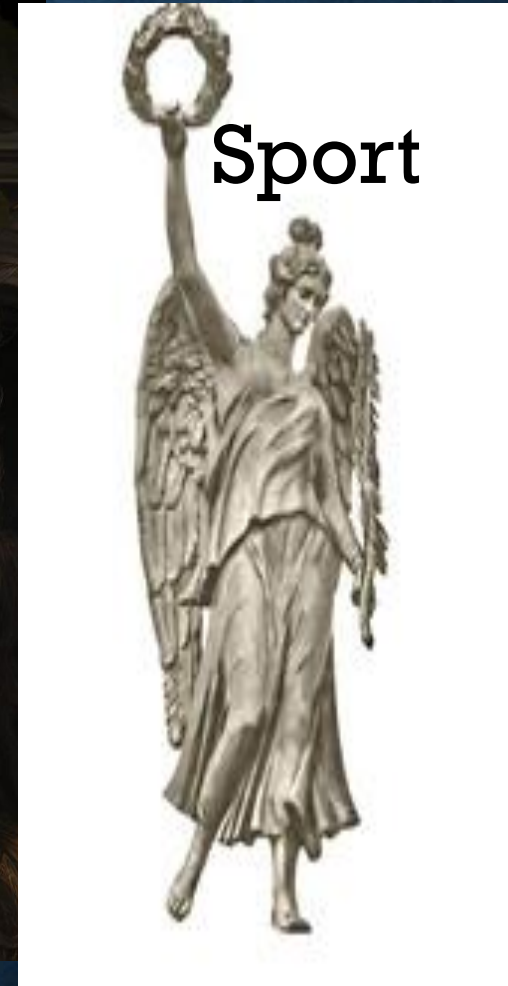
War



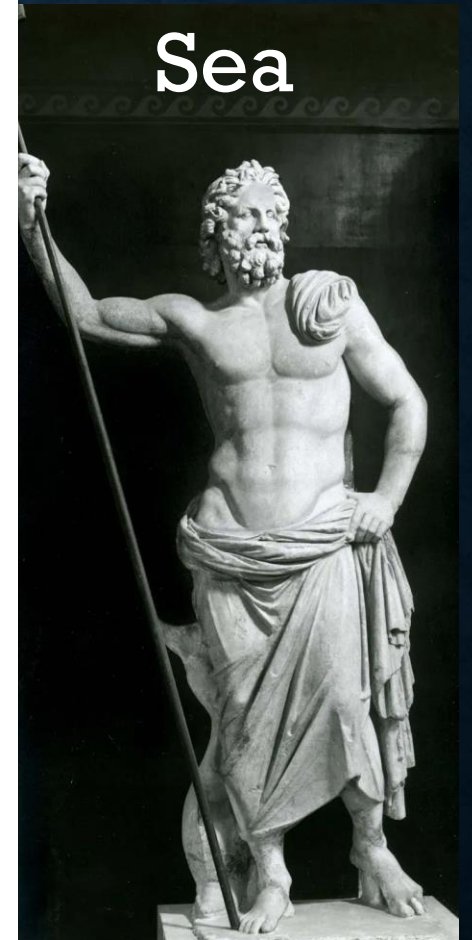
Hunt



Wine



Sport



Sea

Image credits : - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ares#/media/File:Ares\\_Canope\\_Villa\\_Adriana\\_b.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ares#/media/File:Ares_Canope_Villa_Adriana_b.jpg)  
<https://www.worldhistory.org/image/10157/artemis-goddess-of-the-hunt/>  
[https://oldworldgods.com/romans/bacchus-god-of-wine/#google\\_vignette](https://oldworldgods.com/romans/bacchus-god-of-wine/#google_vignette)  
<https://sirioti.com/blogs/greek-symbols-meaning/poseidons-trident-the-symbol-of-the-sea-gods-power-and-authority>



Galatians 4:8-11 (ESV) 8 Formerly, when you  
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worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves  
you want to be once more?

10 You observe days and months and seasons and years!

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# JEW -MOSAIC LAW

"the elements of the world," regulations about food, drink, and all kinds of material things and outward actions.

# GENTILE WORSHIP

cheap earthly elements of sacrifices, temples, ceremonies,



**SLAVERY**





- **Days** Sabbath days, fasting days , Passover feasts
- **Months** Tisri, ..Sabbath month first day was treated like a Sabbath; Nisan, first month Jewish church year and was distinguished by the Passover.
- **Seasons** Seasons of prayer and fasting prescribed by the law.
- **Years** Sabbatical year

• **Days**                      Sundays, Gamma Days

• **Months**                      Lent.

• **Seasons**                      Christmas , Easter, Seasons of fasting

• **Years**



Galatians 4:8-11 (ESV) 8 Formerly, when you  
did not know God,

you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.

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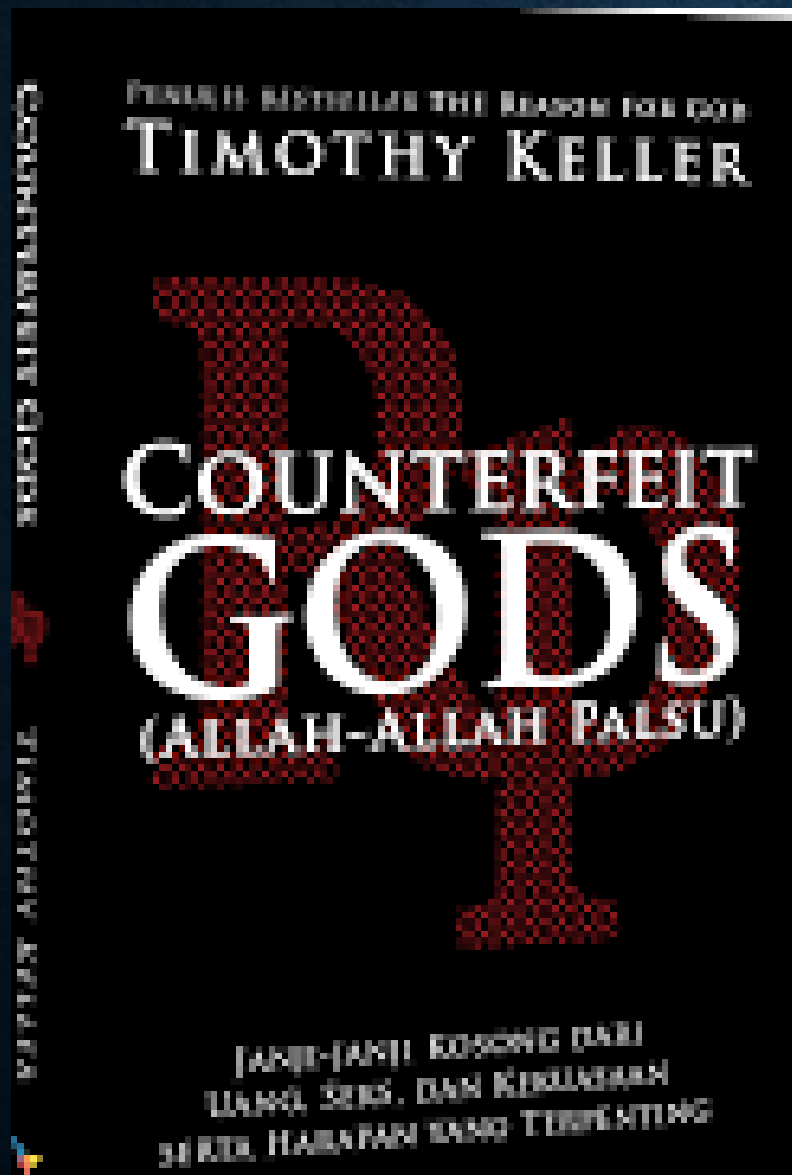
**TRANSFORMATION HAS OCCURRED**





## PURPOSE OF LIFE

Acts 17:26-27 (ESV) And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,  
27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.



*“[An idol] is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give.”*



# IDOLATRY

*“anything we serve, love, desire, trust, fear, and worship...apart from God to give us love, joy, peace, freedom, status, identity, control, happiness, security, fulfillment, health, pleasure, significance, acceptance, and respect” (Gospel Transformation, pg. 59).*

# THE NATURE OF IDOLATRY

*Idols are not necessary sinful things, but good and basic things elevated to the status of ultimate in our lives.*





# THE DESIRE FOR THE BURGER

Natural  
God given  
Appropriate  
Given to glorify God



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a large, multi-layered burger. The burger is filled with a sesame seed bun, a beef patty, lettuce, tomato, onion, and cheese. The person's face is partially visible in the background, looking down at the burger. The image is used as a background for the text overlay.

# THE DESIRE FOR THE BURGER

So overwhelming  
Ignore the poor  
Steal to buy the burger  
Waste family resources  
Becomes a goal or good on  
its own



# DISORDERED LOVE

Leisure

Family

Career

Leisure

Recreation





# DISORDERED LOVE

God

Family

Career

Leisure

Recreation



Idols

## **TIM KELLER**

Sin isn't only doing bad things, it is more fundamentally making good things into ultimate things. Sin is building your life and meaning on anything, even a very good thing, more than on God. Whatever we build our life on will drive us and enslave us. Sin is primarily idolatry.



## MECHANISM OF SLAVERY

Galatians 4:9 (ESV) But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

No tangible long lasting benefit temporally or eternally





## **CANNOT ULTIMATELY SATISFY US**

- “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”

**Augustine of hipoo**



CAN BE DEFINED AS SERVING, LOVING, DESIRING, OR TRUSTING  
ANYTHING APART FROM GOD TO FULFILL YOUR NEEDS.

**identity, hope, meaning or  
happiness**

**Prime movers of our emotions  
or our behaviour**

# Identity

*Who am I ?*

Father

Heterosexual

Businessman

Royalty

Male

Malaysian

Church Member



# Achievement

Whom I ?

Listed company, start up

Billionaire

Owner of 3 Porsche

Dato/Tan Sri

Successful movie star

Harley Davidsons Bike





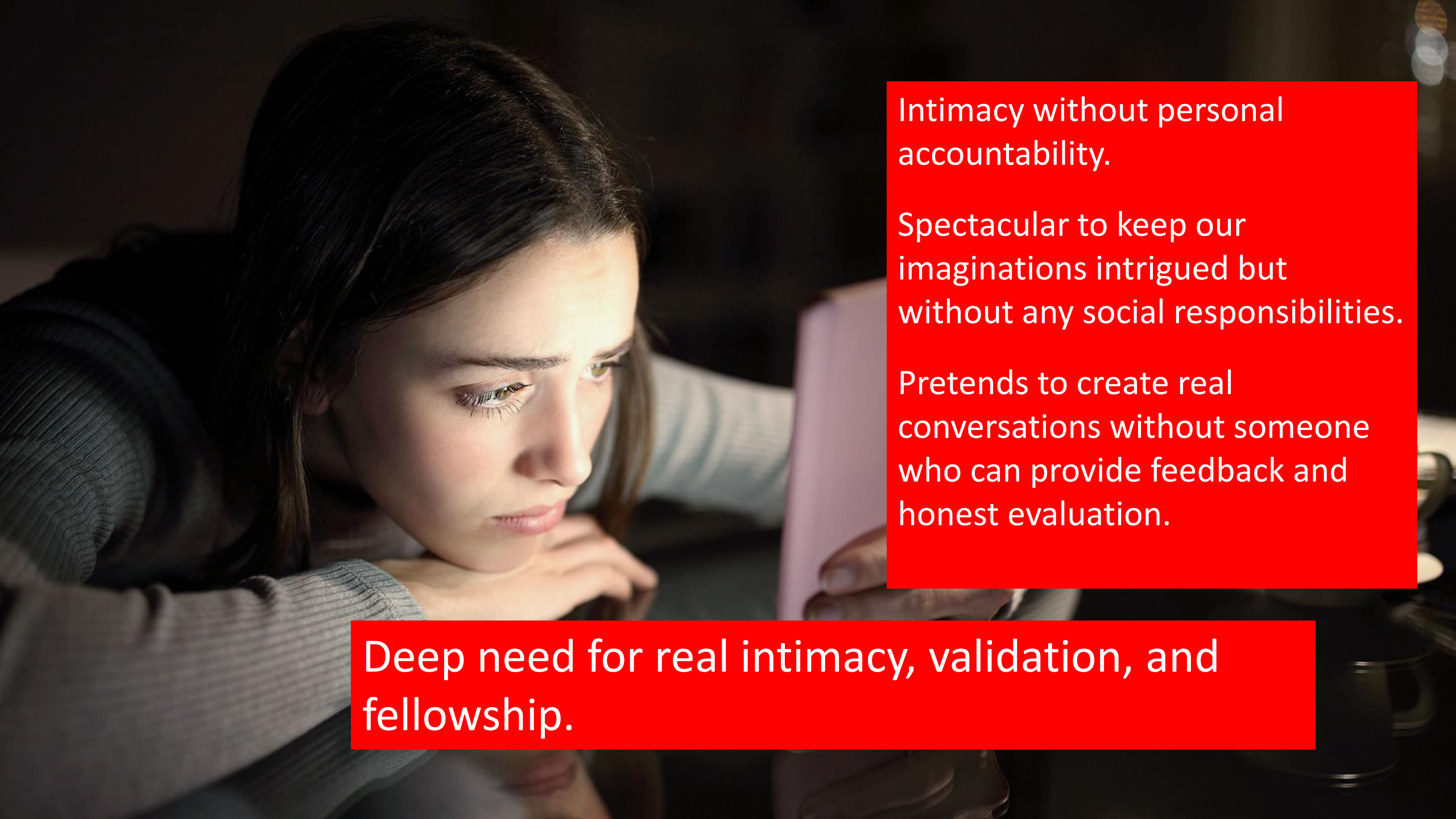
<https://socialguardian.org/blogs/get-rid-of-social-media-addiction/>



Basic need for human interaction



**Intimidating  
Inconvenient  
Limited**



Intimacy without personal accountability.

Spectacular to keep our imaginations intrigued but without any social responsibilities.

Pretends to create real conversations without someone who can provide feedback and honest evaluation.

Deep need for real intimacy, validation, and fellowship.

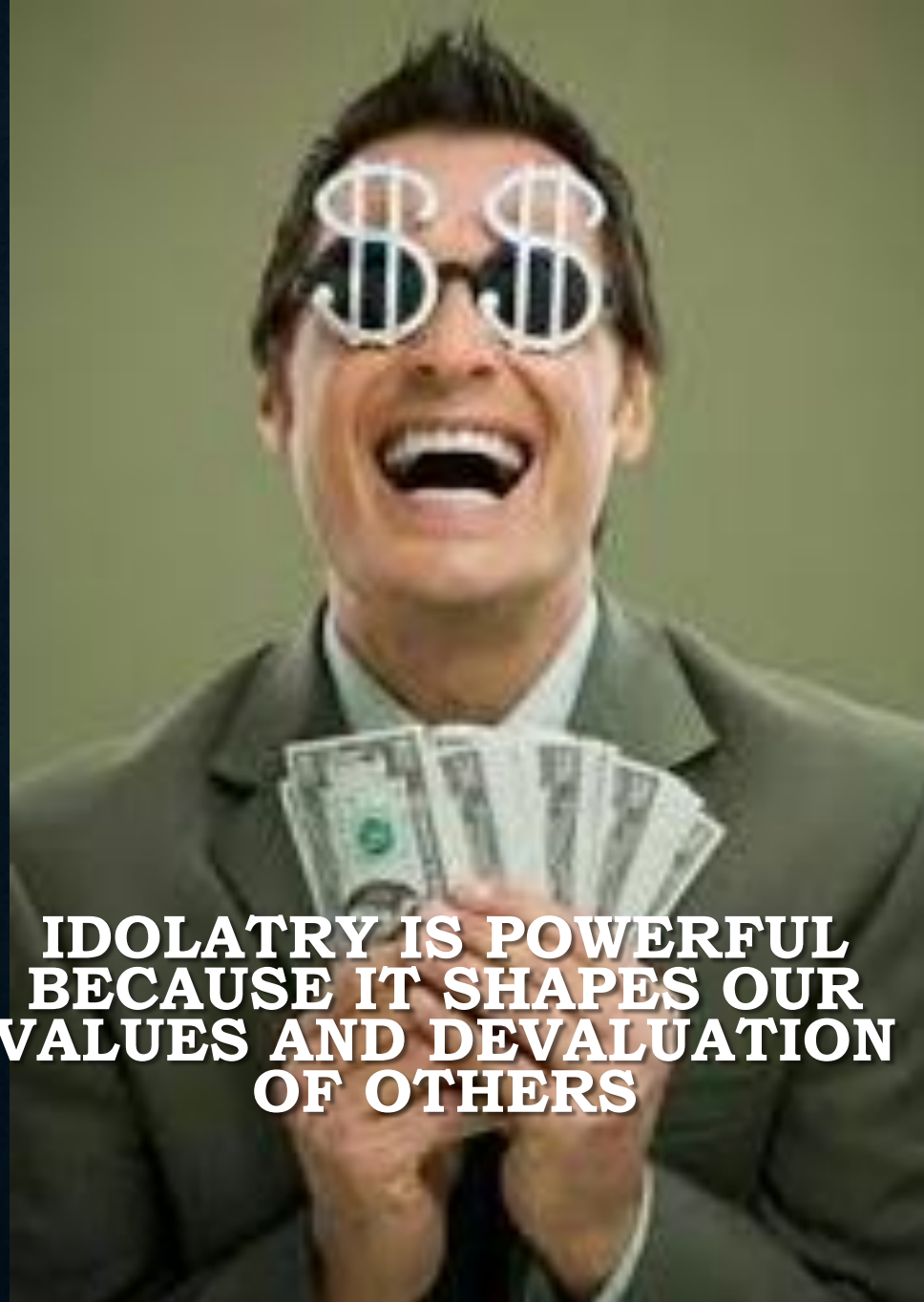


# HEART OF IDOLATRY

- *Look* to something or someone to provide what only God can give.
- *Our* hearts and imaginations become controlled by something other than God.
- Replace God with something else.

Psalms 115:7-8 (ESV) 7 They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat.  
8 Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.





**IDOLATRY IS POWERFUL  
BECAUSE IT SHAPES OUR  
VALUES AND DEVALUATION  
OF OTHERS**

**RICH      MIDDLE CLASS      POOR**  
**CREDITOR      DEBTORS      CUSTOMERS**



A group of people in silhouette, walking and carrying shopping bags, with a shopping cart on the left. The word 'CROWD' is centered over the group.

**CROWD**

**Market**

**Competitors**





# NETWORKING

# GAMMA MEAL



**Is it worth the money?**

**Who is paying?**

**Who is not paying?**

**What is return on  
investment?**



# WORSHIP POWER



Competitor



Collaborator



Detractor





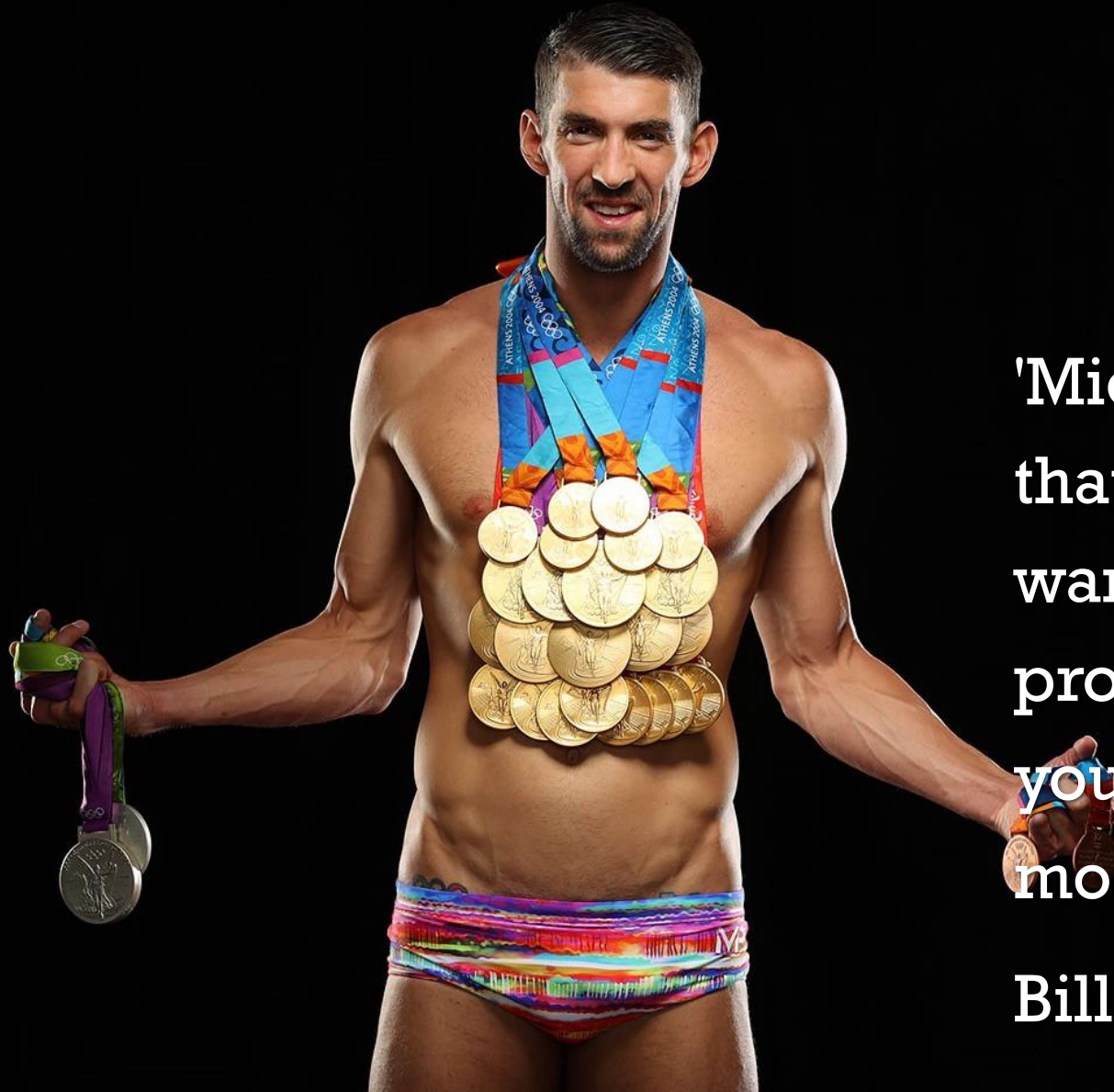


If we idolize our political party, we must demonize other political parties.



## MECHANISM OF SLAVERY

Galatians 4:9 (ESV) But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?



# IDOLS ARE WEAK



'Michael, you have all the money that anybody your age could ever want or need; you have a profound influence in the world; you have free time - and you're the most miserable person I know.'

Bill Bowman





# MADONNA



*My drive in life is from this horrible fear of being mediocre. And that's always pushing me, pushing me. Because even though I've become Somebody. I still have to prove that Somebody. My struggle has never ended and it probably never will.*



# NAKED QUITTING





# 4 KINDS OF PROFESSED CHRISTIANS



Law Obeying  
Law relying



Law Disobeying  
Law relying

Law Disobeying  
Not Law relying



Law Obeying  
Not Law relying







Told by preacher

Jerry was going to hell (although the old man had been a Christian for over 40 years).

1<sup>st</sup> wife had run out on him 50 years ago

2<sup>nd</sup> wife married for 45yr 3 children

1) Get re-baptized the Church of Christ denomination way

2) Divorce his second wife (of 45 years) and repent for remarrying.



# 4 KINDS OF PROFESSED CHRISTIANS



Law Obeying  
Law relying



Law Disobeying  
Law relying



Law Disobeying  
Not Law relying

Law Obeying  
Not Law relying





"Clark Whitten understands grace—a foreign concept among many believers today. Once we grasp the true meaning of grace, we'll live not as orphans, but as children of God."

—James Robison, Founder  
LIFE Outreach International



# PURE

*The Life Changing Power of Uncontaminated Grace*

# GRACE

Clark Whitten



A transformed life was not part of the purpose of Christ's death

- it is not necessary for inheriting the kingdom of God
- it was not part of God's purpose in giving the Spirit
- immoral behavior on the part of self-professed believers does not move God





- God is neither pleased by a believer's obedience nor "ticked off" by a believer's radical and unrepentant disobedience
- it is a waste of time for believers to confess their sins to God

1 John 1:8-9 (ESV) 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



# 4 KINDS OF PROFESSED CHRISTIANS

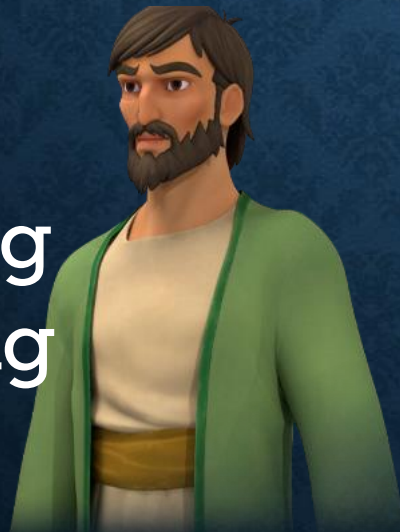


Law Obeying  
Law relying



Law Disobeying  
Law relying

Law Disobeying  
Not Law relying



Law Obeying  
Not Law relying



Galatians 2:20 (ESV) I have been crucified with Christ.  
It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.  
And the life I now live in the flesh **I live by faith** in  
the Son of God,



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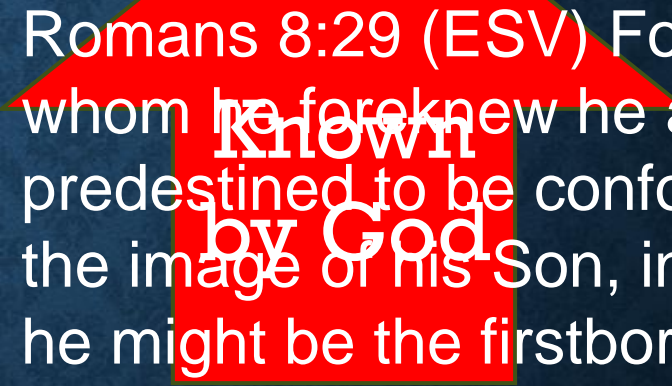
11 I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

# GALATIAN POSITION



**Know  
God**

Active human part  
heard gospel by  
Paul responded by  
faith



**Known  
by God**

Romans 8:29 (ESV) For those  
whom he foreknew he also  
predestined to be conformed to  
the image of his Son, in order that  
he might be the firstborn among  
many brothers.

Passive Divine  
initiative..calling



# SALVATION

