

Idolatry is all around us, approved by society, and sadly among Christians. You and I need to be determined not to fall into this number. Reject the lust of the eyes and flesh, along with the pride of life (1 Jn. 2:15-17). Turn away from the seasonal pleasures of sin (Heb. 11:24-26). Give yourself wholly to the Lord, looking unto Jesus (Heb. 12:1, 2).

- Steven F. Deaton

Those who make an image,
all of them are useless,
and their precious things shall not profit;
they are their own witnesses; they neither see now know,
that they may be ashamed.

- Isa. 44:9



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The Beer Summit

Remember back in July when the President had a “Beer Summit”? He held it because he slammed a police officer in Connecticut for arresting a university professor who happened to be black. The officer took this action in response to a 911 call about a break in and the professor’s uncooperative behavior. Anyway, the summit was supposed to smooth things over between Obama, the professor, and police officer. It didn’t, as the cop reportedly said, “We agreed to disagree.”

Yes, the state of our nation is such that the chief executive is holding beer summits to try to shore up his image. The message to society, especially young people, is: have a problem, drink some beer and it will go away!

The wise man disagree. He said, “Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise” (Prov. 20:1). He further stated that alcohol brings woe, sorrow, contentions, complaints, and wounds without cause, not to mention red eyes (Prov. 23:29).

From beginning to end the Bible warns us about the dangers and pitfalls of intoxication (Gen. 9:18-28; 1 Pet. 4:3, 4). Men lose their ability to think clearly when intoxicated; and they do not need a great amount to get that way.

Were you shocked by the President holding the “Beer Summit”? You shouldn’t be. Why? He is the same man who refused to protect babies who survive botched assassinations (abortions) in Illinois. He is the same President who declared June

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“National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month,” or more biblically called, National Vile, Shameful, and Unnatural Month (Rom. 1:26-28).

Like many of you, we wonder how long the Lord will allow this nation to continue.

We are in a terrible state of reproach. “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov. 14:34). And, it is not just the President.

What can we as Christians do about this?

While we may not be able to reverse the perverseness of our society, we can stand out as lights in darkness (Phil. 2:14-16). Some will be attracted to it, while many will run from it (Jn. 3:19-21). That is the way it has always been and will continue to be until time is no more.

To shine as lights in darkness, we must first cleanse ourselves of sin. A thorough self examination and true repentance of any and all sin must take place (2 Cor. 13:5; 1 Jn. 1:7-10). When we walk in the light, we will stand out; like the full moon and a clear night. Our purity will be evident to those around us (1 Pet. 2:11, 12).

We must devote time to worship, study, and prayer. People will see this. They will recognize when we drive off every Sunday to worship (Heb. 10:24, 25). They will observe in our conversation that we study the Bible and do not speak as other men speak. An impression will be made.

Further, we must speak to others about the gospel and their souls (2 Cor. 4:13). Our duty is to teach men as we have opportunity. If we love them, we will. And, there is no room for excuses on this. We can invite a neighbor to services (regular or gospel meetings), give out a tract, point people to a web site, or see if they will sit down at the kitchen table for a one-on-one study. There are so many ways to effectively communicate the truth, we are under a great obligation—more so than generations past.

The “Beer Summit” is really no laughing matter. It is what the Bible would describe as foolish; stupid in modern vernacular. Too, it is sad that our nation’s leaders lack

biblical morals. Thus, it is up to us—to those of us who truly believe what the Bible teaches and are concerned about the state of our nation—to have an influence for good. We cannot and should not expect it from politicians or denominations. It simply will not and cannot come from them. Rather, any change for the better must come from us, Christians, devoted followers of the Savior. Let’s get to it.

- Steven F. Deaton

Idolatry In America?

Some think idolatry is confined to ancient history or the very deepest, darkest jungles of Africa. They can clearly see that worshipping Zeus, Neptune, or Thor is idolatrous. The fact is, however, that idolatry is alive and well in the US.

In Bible times there was a god called Molech (1 Kgs. 11:4-8). Worship of him included child sacrifice. Another god was Ashtoreth whose obeisance included sex (not with your spouse). In the first century Bacchus was popular. Why? In part because his worship involved getting drunk.

Unlike ancient times, many in the US do not have wood, stone, or metal images of their gods on a mantel or go to an “idol’s temple.” Rather, they worship at the bar, abortion clinic, or strip club: same devotions and activities, just a different description.

Nowadays, idol worship is called “pro-choice,” a “good time,” or “my right.” The Bible says it is sin that will cost men their souls (Gal. 5:19-21).

The devil has done a good job of hiding the true nature of these sins and lured many people, including Christians, into them. With God’s help we can see them for what they are and not be drawn in (Phil. 4:13; 1 Cor. 10:13). When we think we are not vulnerable to them, we are set for a fall (1 Cor. 10:12). Hence, we must be sober minded, trusting in God and His truth, not what the world is telling us. Sin is not a “good time” or “my right.” While we have a choice, the choice of sin over non-sin is not innocuous, but odious.