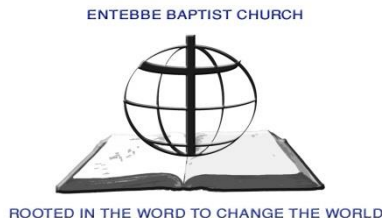


Our Vision: To be a growing, loving, caring and holistic church based on the word of God.



Our Mission: To be rooted in the Word to change the World

Bible Study July 19 - 02 August 2021

Theme of the year: "Victory only through Faith and Obedience"

Theme: IDOLATRY- GOD'S CONCERN

Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your God, your functional savior. — **Martin Luther**—

Purpose: To understand God's heart about idolatry and its dangers to our relationship with Him.

1. Read Ezekiel Chapter 14.

- a. What type of people is this text addressing?
- b. What is God's concern regarding the Elders? Read also Ezekiel 8:9-13, Ezekiel 20:7
 - i. How did idolatry affect their communication with God? See also Ezekiel 20:1-3
 - ii. Why do you think this concern should be paid attention to in the church today?
- c. What does the author mean in verse 3 that "*these men have setup their **IDOLS**¹ in their hearts*?"
 - i. In what ways do we live for God but also commit ourselves to ungodly purposes?
 - ii. If God is to reveal our hearts today, do you think that we will be different from His people then?
 - iii. What is Jesus saying to the Pharisees in Matthew 23:25-29? In what ways are the Pharisees similar to the Elders in Ezekiel chapter 14?
- d. How does the author define idolatry in verses **3-4**?
 - i. What has caused you lately to stumble? Can it be that it is an idol in your life?
 - ii. What is idolatry in Colossians 3:5 and Galatians 5:19-20?
- e. Kindly take some time and think about some of the things in Entebbe Baptist Church fellowship and other church fellowships that have become idols.
 - i. What things do you think have become idols in our country Uganda?
 - ii. Since money helps us accomplish many things², what have you done not to let it become an idol to you? See. I Timothy 6:10, Hebrews 13:5-6, Philippians 4:11, I Timothy 6:6, Job 1:21, I Timothy 6:11, I John 2:15.
 - iii. How does the love of money affect our faith and relationship with Jesus Christ?
 - iv. How do you understand Ecclesiastes 10:19 in the context of the Christian life?

¹**What is an IDOL?** It 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 (Counterfeit Gods, Timothy Keller).

²Meet our needs and even expand the kingdom of God.

- f. How do good things apart from money become idols in our lives? For example-Jobs, Professions, Brains, Business, Beauty, Personalities, Achievements, Reputation, Success and others,...etc.
 - i. What things do you think have become idols in our homes?
 - ii. Why do you think we need to be cautious about idolatry in our homes? See Ezekiel 20:21-25, Romans 1:21-25, II Timothy 4:10-11, Proverbs 22:6, II Kings 21:21.
- g. Do you believe we are also idolatrous when we pursue that in (e) above with intensity, tenacity, and commitment that should be set aside for God?
 - i. Why do we need to be careful of secret idolatry? [Idolatry of the Heart] See also II Thessalonians 2:9-12, Jeremiah 17:9-10, Mark 4:19, Micah 2:2-3, Psalm 106:36
2. How was God going to answer the Elders in verse 4-5?
 - a. Can it be that we also pretend to hear from the Lord by reading the Bible and praying but we have already set some idols in our hearts?
 - i. Do you think in that way [29(a)] above; our prayer and communion to God is affected? See also Isaiah 59:1, Psalm 66:18-20.
 - b. What did God command His people to do in verses 6-8?
 - i. What are we also supposed to do when we discover some idols in our lives? See I Corinthians 10:14, Colossians 3:2-5, I Kings 15:12, II Kings 23:24
 - c. How is repentance defined in verse 6?
3. What comes out clearly in these verses 12-14?
 - a. What was the major cause of judgment in this text?
 - i. What warning does Apostle Paul highlight in Colossians 3:6 and Galatians 5:21 about idolatry?
 - b. What is the purpose of God's punishment in verses 11?
 - i. Why is God's chastisement good for His people in reflection of this text? See also Hebrews 12:6-7, Proverbs 3:12
 - ii. "Additional" Why was the chastisement of Christ significant to us? Read Isaiah 53:3-5?
 - c. What do you understand by verse 14? "*And though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver only their own souls by their righteousness, says the Lord Jehovah.*"
 - i. What does the above verse remind you of God's decrees?
 - ii. What lessons have we learnt over the years from the life of NOAH, DANIEL, and JOB that so that we do not become idolatrous? See also Genesis 6:8-9, Daniel 1:8, 3:18, 6:4, Job 1:1, 8, and 9.
4. Through what agents of judgement had God promised to bring judgement on Jerusalem in verse 15-20?
5. How many times does God refer to NOAH, DANIEL, and JOB in this Chapter?
6. What lesson do we learn from God in verses 21-23?
 - a. How do you define a remnant (verse 22) in context of the earlier verses?
 - b. What character of God matches with verse 24?
7. Kindly summarize your lessons from this study and reflect on how you will apply them.

Scripture Memorization:

Exodus 20:3-4

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