



# 1 CORINTHIANS

LEARNING TO LIVE BY THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

**"The Defilement Zone: Idolatry"**

*1 Corinthians 10:14-22*



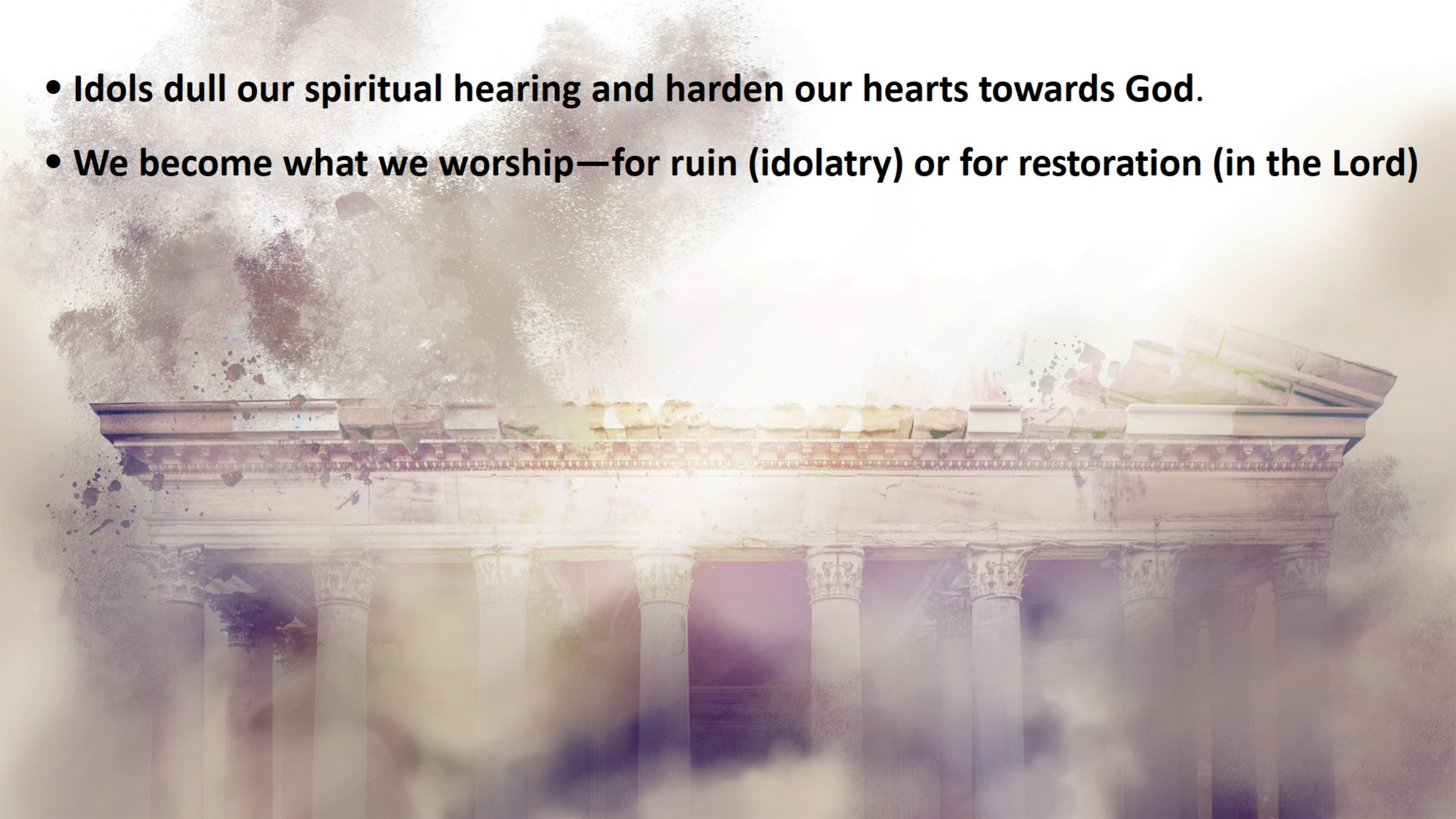
### 3 Actions to safeguard your life from idolatry

1. Run from Idolatry: Nothing corrupts you like worshipping something other than the Lord. (v.14)





- **Idols dull our spiritual hearing and harden our hearts towards God.**
- **We become what we worship—for ruin (idolatry) or for restoration (in the Lord)**





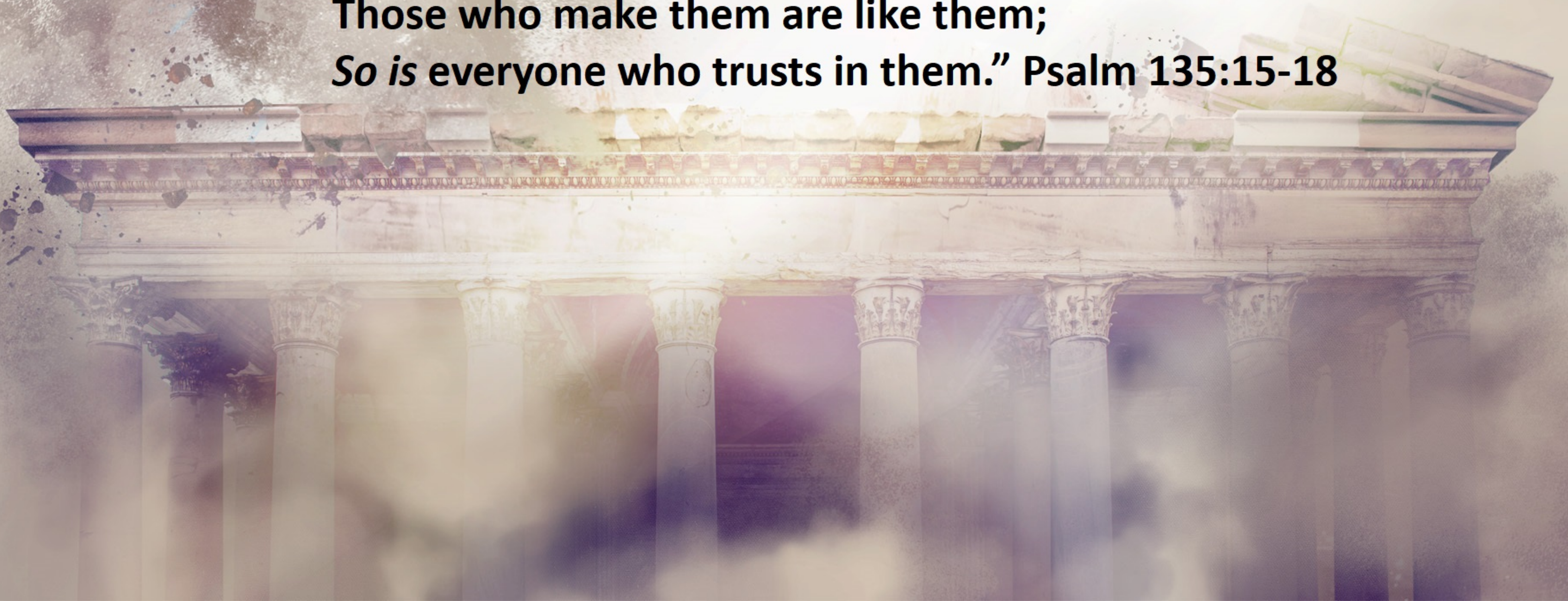
**“What people revere, they resemble, either for ruin or for restoration.” -G. K. Beale**

**In wholehearted worship of God, our minds are being transformed, and we are being conformed to the image of Christ. In the act of idolatry, as a heart worships a created image, it is being conformed to the world in its unnatural twistedness. Beale's point is that our worship and our affections right now are pointers to a future trajectory. Our worship is either aimed at our ruin, or our worship is aimed at our restoration, but it is aimed in either case. We are becoming what we worship.**





**“The idols of the nations *are* silver and gold,  
The work of men’s hands.  
They have mouths, but they do not speak;  
Eyes they have, but they do not see;  
They have ears, but they do not hear;  
Nor is there *any* breath in their mouths.  
Those who make them are like them;  
*So is everyone who trusts in them.*” Psalm 135:15-18**





- **Idols dull our spiritual hearing and harden our hearts towards God.**
- **We become what we worship—for ruin (idolatry) or for restoration (in the Lord)**
- **Idolatry draws the judgement and/or discipline of the Lord**





### 3 Actions to safeguard your life from idolatry

1. Run from Idolatry: Nothing corrupts you like worshipping something other than the Lord. (v.14)
2. Refuse to be deceived by Idolatry: Subtly and demonically, worshipping idols leads you to something incompatible with faith in Christ. (v.15-22a)
3. Refrain from provoking the Lord with Idolatry: The Lord is jealous for the worship of His people and idolatry stirs His anger and discipline. (v.22b)



**“They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign *gods*;  
With abominations they provoked Him to anger.” Deuteronomy 32:16**

**“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.” Exodus 20:4-6**



**“They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God;  
They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols.  
But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation;  
I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.” Deuteronomy 32:21**

