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**LENT 2026: IDOL**

**THE EXCHANGE: THE PROBLEM OF IDOLATRY**

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<sup>23</sup>Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

**Proverbs 4:23 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup>For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

**Romans 1:18–23 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup>because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

**Romans 1:24–25 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! <sup>2</sup>Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?” <sup>3</sup>Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. <sup>4</sup>Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. <sup>5</sup>They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. <sup>6</sup>They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. <sup>7</sup>They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. <sup>8</sup>Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

**Psalms 115:1–8 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! <sup>24</sup>And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

**Psalms 139:23–24 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup>And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

**Colossians 1:15–20 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.  
**Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV)**