

The background features a collage of old, sepia-toned maps. Overlaid on these maps is a network of thin white lines connecting various blue and white circular nodes, creating a web-like pattern across the entire image. The text is centered in the middle of the composition.

breaking the cycle of idolatry

A C T S 1 4 : 8 - 2 0

The background features a dark blue and purple gradient. Overlaid on this are several vintage-style maps, including one of the United Kingdom and others showing various geographical regions. A network diagram is also present, consisting of numerous small, glowing dots in shades of blue and green, connected by thin, light-colored lines that radiate from a central point at the top, creating a star-like or web-like structure.

JAMES 1:17

***Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there
is no variation or shadow due to change.***

Acts 14:8-11

The Forming of an Idol

1. God acts in power out of His overwhelming love and grace. (v. 8-10)
2. People misattribute God's action to worldly power. (v. 11)

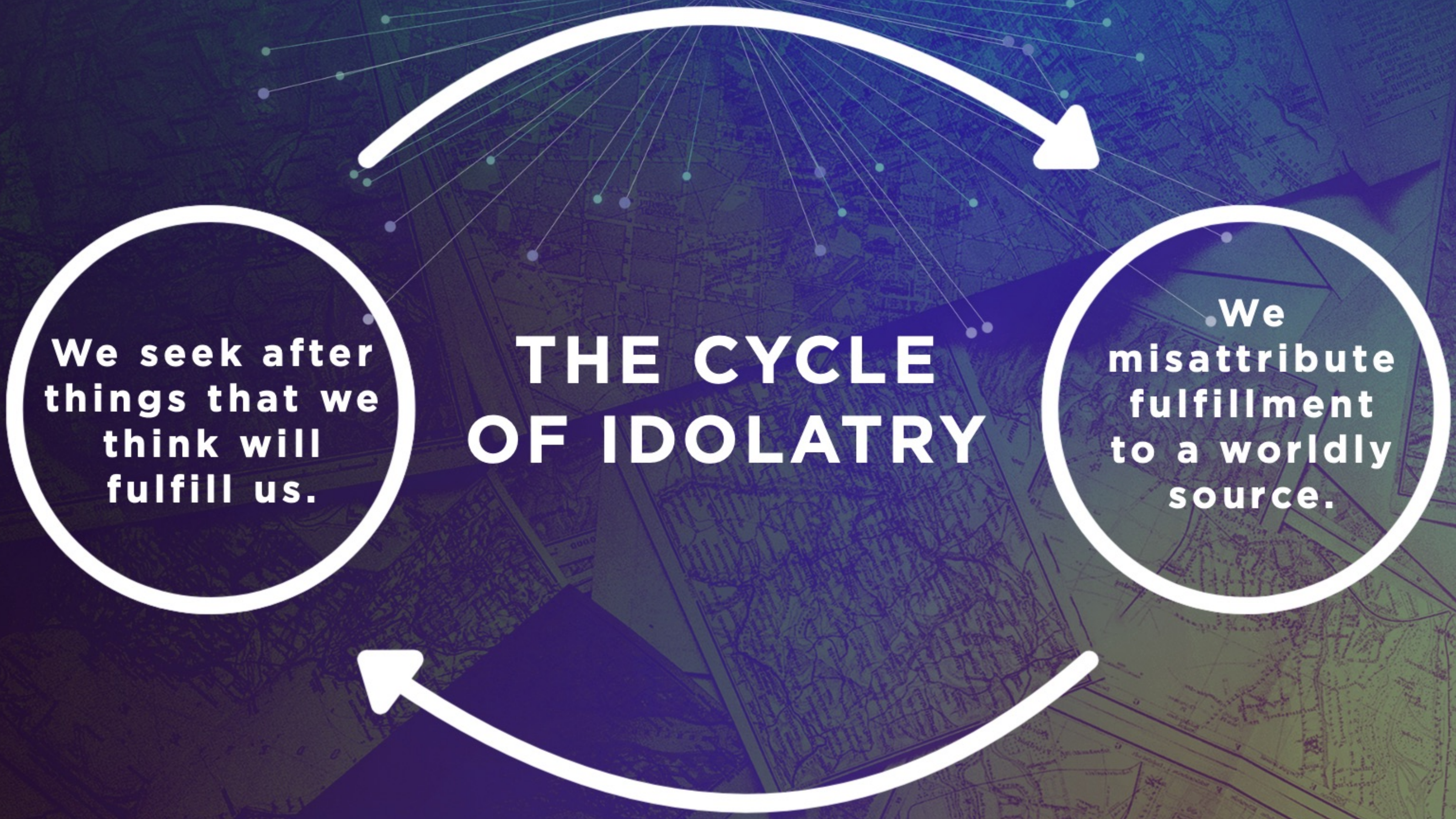
Every good thing has the possibility of becoming an idol when we credit the creature rather than the Creator.

Acts 14:11-13

Worshipping Idols

1. When we see what God has done and celebrate others, we worship idols. (v. 11a)
2. When we give power that rightly belongs to God to things, ideas, and people, we worship idols. (v. 11b)
3. When we interpret God's word in light of current circumstances, we worship idols. (v. 12)
4. When we devote resources that rightly belong to God to things, ideas, and people, we worship idols. (v. 13)
5. When we make a thing, idea, or person the focus of our sacrifice, we worship idols. (v. 13b)

When we misattribute divine action to worldly powers we worship creation itself.



The diagram illustrates a cycle of idolatry. It features a central title 'THE CYCLE OF IDOLATRY' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. To the left and right of the title are two white-outlined circles. The left circle contains the text 'We seek after things that we think will fulfill us.' and the right circle contains 'We misattribute fulfillment to a worldly source.' Two large, white, curved arrows connect the circles: one starts at the top of the left circle and points to the top of the right circle, and the other starts at the bottom of the right circle and points back to the bottom of the left circle, creating a continuous loop. The background is a dark blue map with a network of white lines and dots, suggesting a global or interconnected theme.

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THE CYCLE OF IDOLATRY

**We
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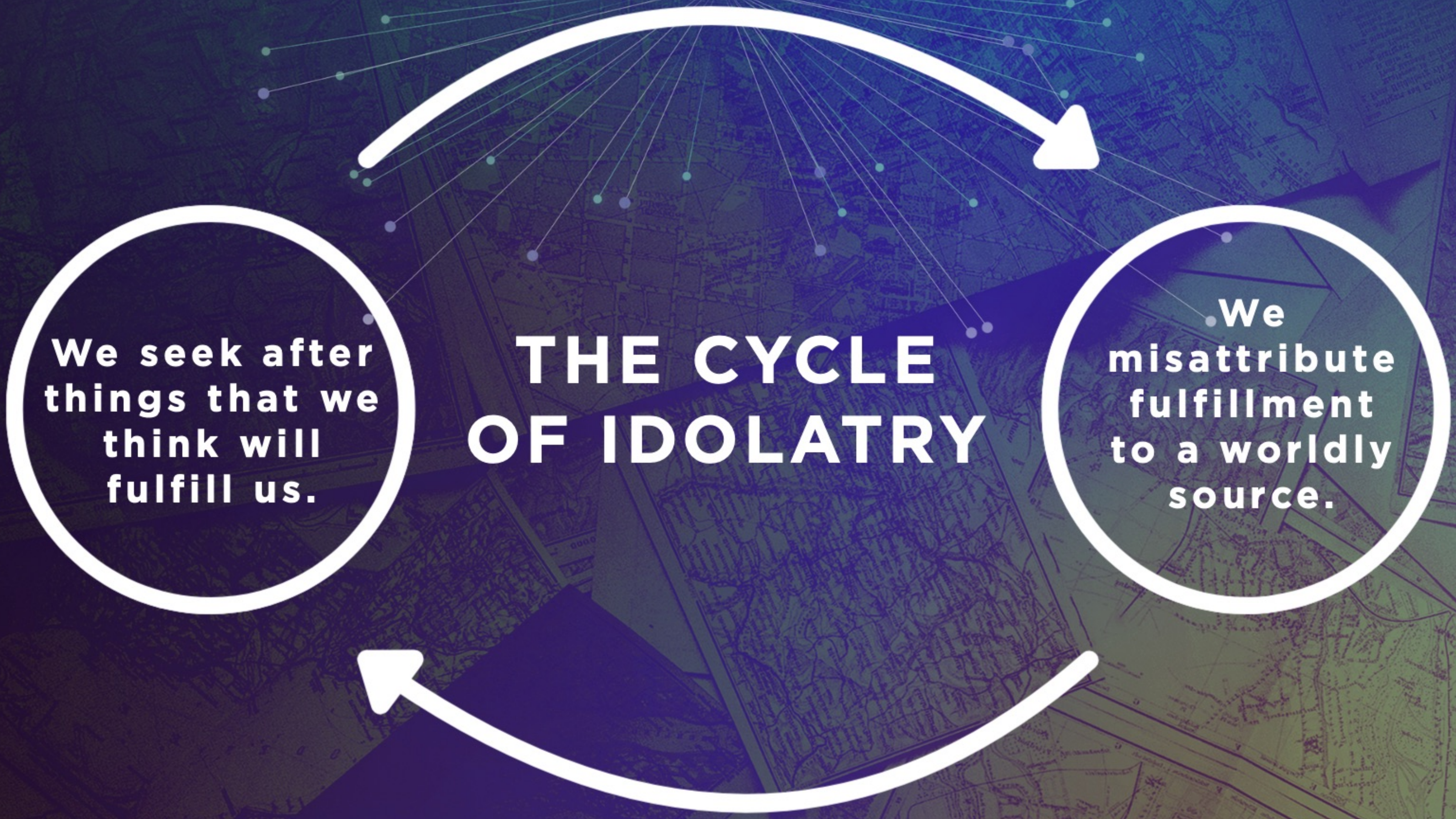
ACTS 14:14

But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd...



JEREMIAH 2:11-13

Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.



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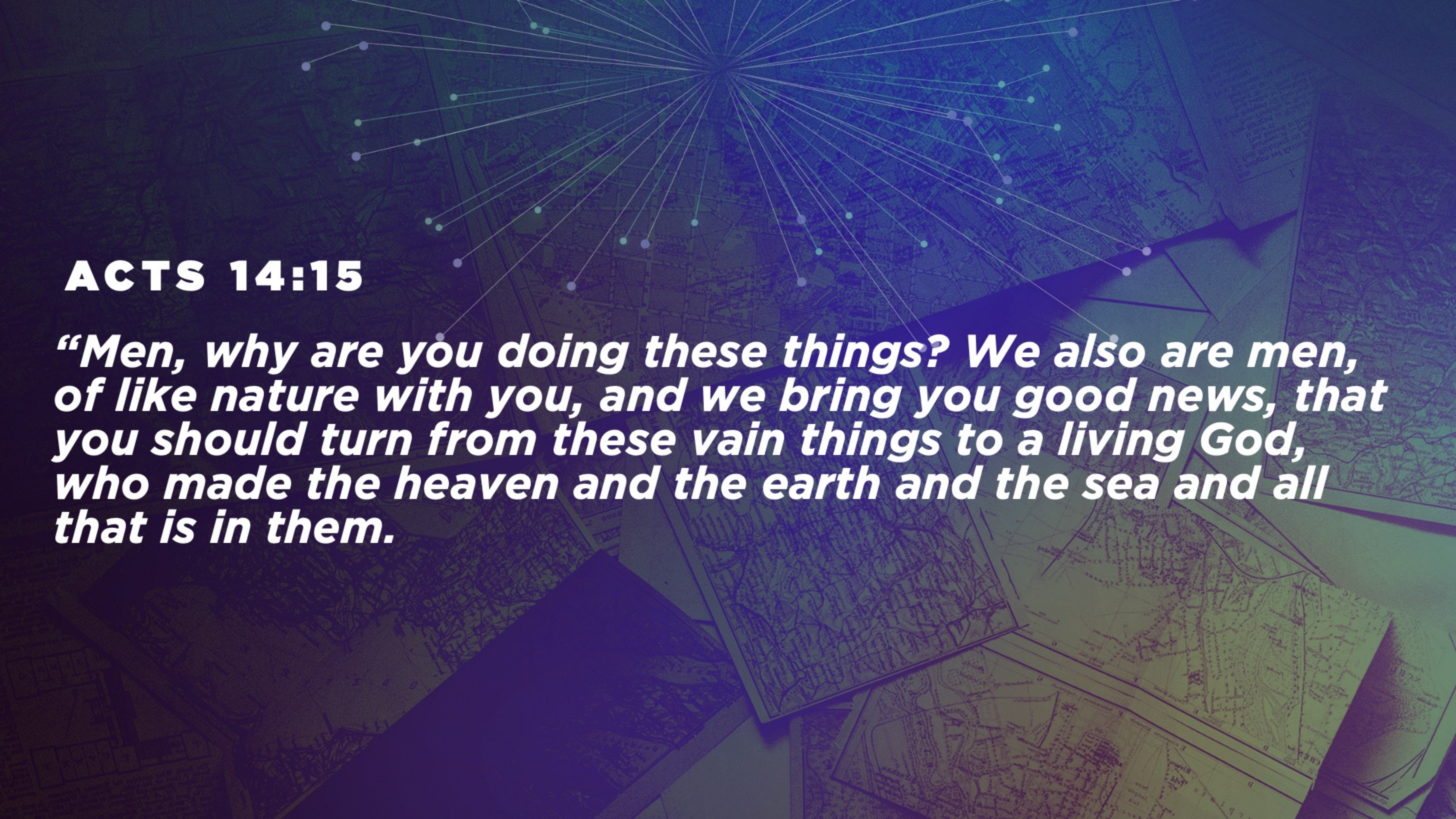
THE CYCLE OF IDOLATRY

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The background features a dark blue and purple gradient. Overlaid on this is a faint, detailed map of a city, likely Jerusalem, with various streets and landmarks visible. A network diagram is also present, consisting of numerous small, light-colored dots connected by thin, white lines, radiating from a central point at the top of the image.

JOHN 7:37-38

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

The background features a dark blue gradient with a network diagram of white lines and dots at the top. Below this, several historical maps are layered, showing various geographical regions and city layouts in a sepia tone.

ACTS 14:15

***“Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.*”**



Jesus is the one who breaks cycles of idolatry.

Acts 14:15-18

Joining Christ in Breaking the Cycle of Idolatry

- 1. Read the Bible with a specific focus on the ways that things, ideas, and people failed to fulfill the wants and needs of generations that came before. (v. 16)**
- 2. Begin acknowledging and thanking God as the singular source for all good things in your life. (v. 17)**
- 3. Hold everything taught by preachers, teachers, and mentors against the whole counsel of Scripture. (v. 18)**

Though our idols are broken by Christ's death and resurrection, we are nevertheless called by Paul to work out our faith with "fear and trembling".

Acts 14:19-20

A Warning and Encouragement to Idol-Breakers

1. Because this world depends on your idolatry to control you, it will try to destroy all who break idols. (v. 19)

2. Your idol-breaking labor is not done in vain, for the risen Savior goes before you. (v. 20)

Are you willing to join Christ in His idol-breaking work, even when it means sharing in His sufferings?

