

Psalm 115:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.

Analysis

They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them. This is the devastating conclusion: idol makers become like their idols. The Hebrew *damah* (דָמָה, to be like, resemble) indicates not just similarity but transformation into likeness. Those who craft and trust in lifeless, senseless objects become spiritually lifeless and senseless themselves.

The progression is theological and psychological. What we worship shapes us. Trusting in blind idols produces spiritual blindness (2 Corinthians 4:4). Depending on deaf gods creates deaf hearts (Matthew 13:15). Humans are inherently worshiping beings; the question is never whether we worship but what. False worship doesn't leave us neutral—it deforms us into the image of our false gods.

This principle finds New Testament development in Romans 1:21-25, where idolatry leads to futile thinking and darkened hearts. Conversely, beholding the true God transforms believers 'from glory to glory' into Christ's image (2 Corinthians 3:18). Worship is inherently transformative; we become like what we behold.

Historical Context

Israel's history demonstrated this principle repeatedly. When Israel worshiped golden calves, they became spiritually deaf to prophetic warnings. When they trusted in political alliances rather than God, they became as unstable as those

alliances. The exile to Babylon was divine pedagogy—let them see the impotence of idols firsthand. Surrounded by magnificent Babylonian temples and elaborate rituals, faithful Jews learned that external religious impressiveness means nothing if the deity is false.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What evidence is there in contemporary culture that people 'become like' their functional gods (wealth, power, pleasure)?
2. How does understanding worship as transformative (rather than merely expressive) change your approach to corporate and private devotion?
3. In what specific ways has beholding Christ through Scripture and Spirit transformed you into His likeness?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר כִּי כִּי וְ כִּי מִזְמָרָם

H3644

H1961

They that make

H3605

H834

H6213

בְּתַם:

them are like unto them so is every one that trusteth

H982

H0

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 135:18 (Faith): They that make them are like unto them: so is every one that trusteth in them.

Jeremiah 10:8 (Parallel theme): But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock is a doctrine of vanities.

Jonah 2:8 (Parallel theme): They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

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