

# Be Converted!

## 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

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For they themselves report about us  
what kind of a reception we had with you,  
and how you turned to God from idols  
to serve a living and true God,  
and to wait for His Son from heaven,  
whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus,  
who rescues us from the wrath to come.



# **Main Point**

Conversion is a complete reorientation of life that is confirmed by a repudiation of idolatry, an active devotion to God, and an eager anticipation of Jesus' return.

**Be Converted!**  
Repudiate your idols.

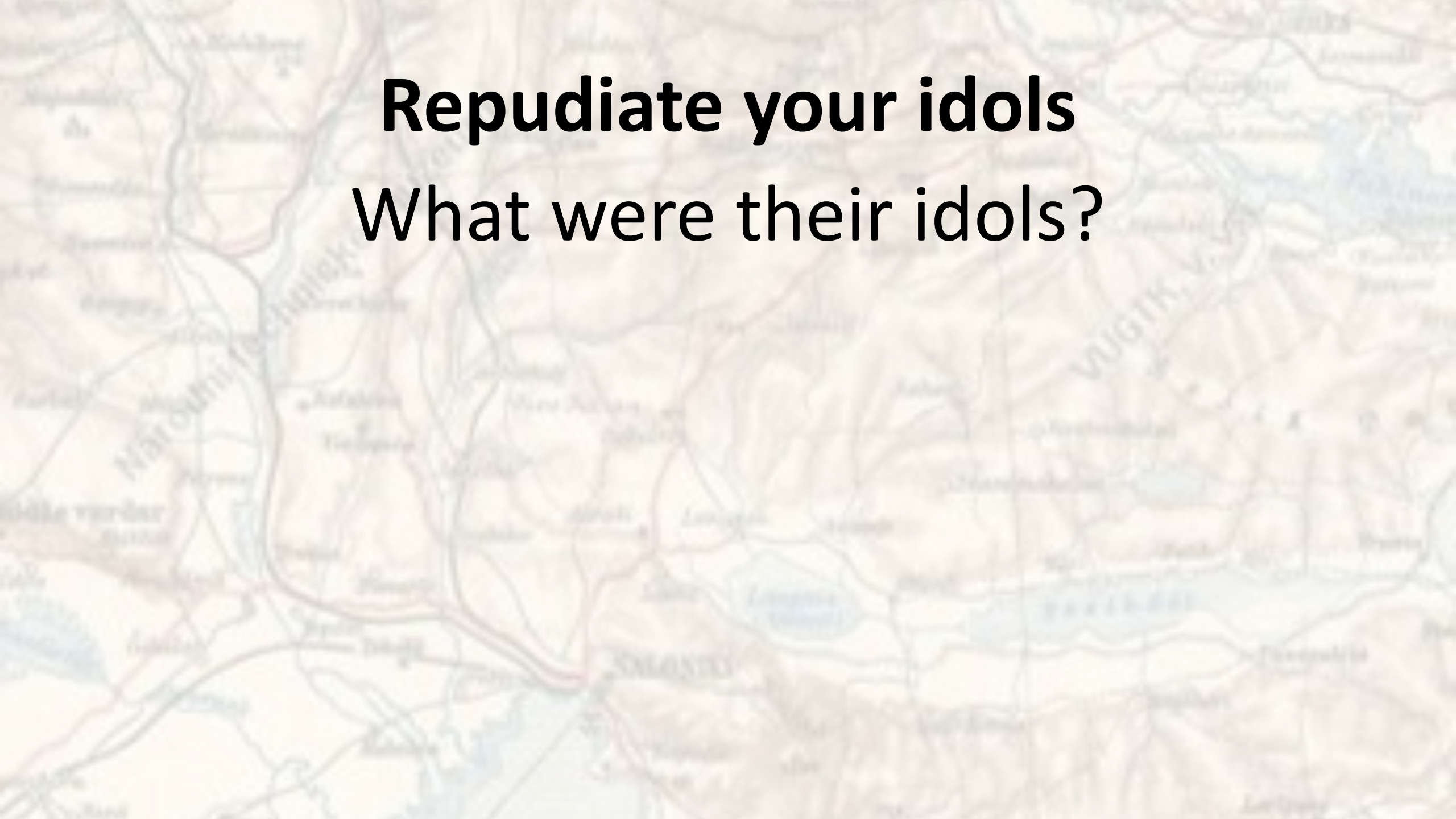
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**Repudiate your idols**  
What were their idols?

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# What idols had they turned from?

**Acts 17:16**

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens,  
his spirit was being provoked within him  
as he was observing the city full of idols.

# What idols had they turned from?

**Acts 17:16**

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens,  
his spirit was being provoked within him  
as he was observing **the city full of idols.**

# **What idols had they turned from?**

**Acts 15:19-20**

Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood.



# What idols had they turned from?

## **1 Thessalonians 4:3**

For this is the will of God, your sanctification;  
that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality.

## **1 Thessalonians 5:5-7**

...for you are all sons of light and sons of day.  
We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us  
not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.  
For those who sleep do their sleeping at night,  
and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

Their idols were the many gods of their times from whom they believed came favor and blessing and peace and security.



# Repudiate your idols

What were their idols?

## What are our idols?



1 Thessalonians 1:9

**you turned** to God **from idols.**

Acts 17:16

Paul...was observing **the city full of idols.**

We are kidding ourselves if we believe  
that Kearney is not full of idols or that  
we are not susceptible to idolatry.

**1 John 5:21**

Little children, **guard yourselves from idols.**

# **What is an idolatry?**

Idolatry is believing your needs can be met or your desires fulfilled or your hopes realized or your fears calmed or your soul satisfied by something or someone other than God.



# What is an idol?

An idol is anyone or anything  
*you turn to or attach yourself to*  
as the source of what you desire.

As the source of comfort, control,  
fulfillment, protection, provision,  
recognition, vindication, satisfaction.

# What does idolatry look like?

## Jeremiah 44:17

But rather we will certainly carry out every word that has proceeded from our mouths, by burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, just as we ourselves, our forefathers, our kings and our princes did in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; for then we had plenty of food and were well off and saw no misfortune.

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They had attached themselves to the queen of heaven as the source of their desired blessings.

# **Hotbeds of idolatry in our culture?**

Sexuality

Social Media

Relationships

Work

Education

Sports, Recreation, and Entertainment

Causes and Ideologies

When you have attached yourself to someone or something or some idea as the source or solution, your flesh will resist your turning away and will rage. But you must repent and repudiate your idols and turn to the Lord!



A faded map of Europe serves as the background. Overlaid on the map are several text elements: 'Be Converted!' in large bold black font at the top center; 'Repudiate your idols.' in smaller black font below it; 'Actively devote yourself to God.' in large black font below that; 'VUGTK, v. v. i.' in a light blue font, rotated diagonally across the lower center; 'Národní technické' in a light blue font, rotated diagonally in the bottom right corner; and 'Icke museum' in a light blue font, rotated diagonally on the left side.

# **Be Converted!**

Repudiate your idols.

Actively devote yourself to God.

VUGTK, v. v. i.

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Icke museum

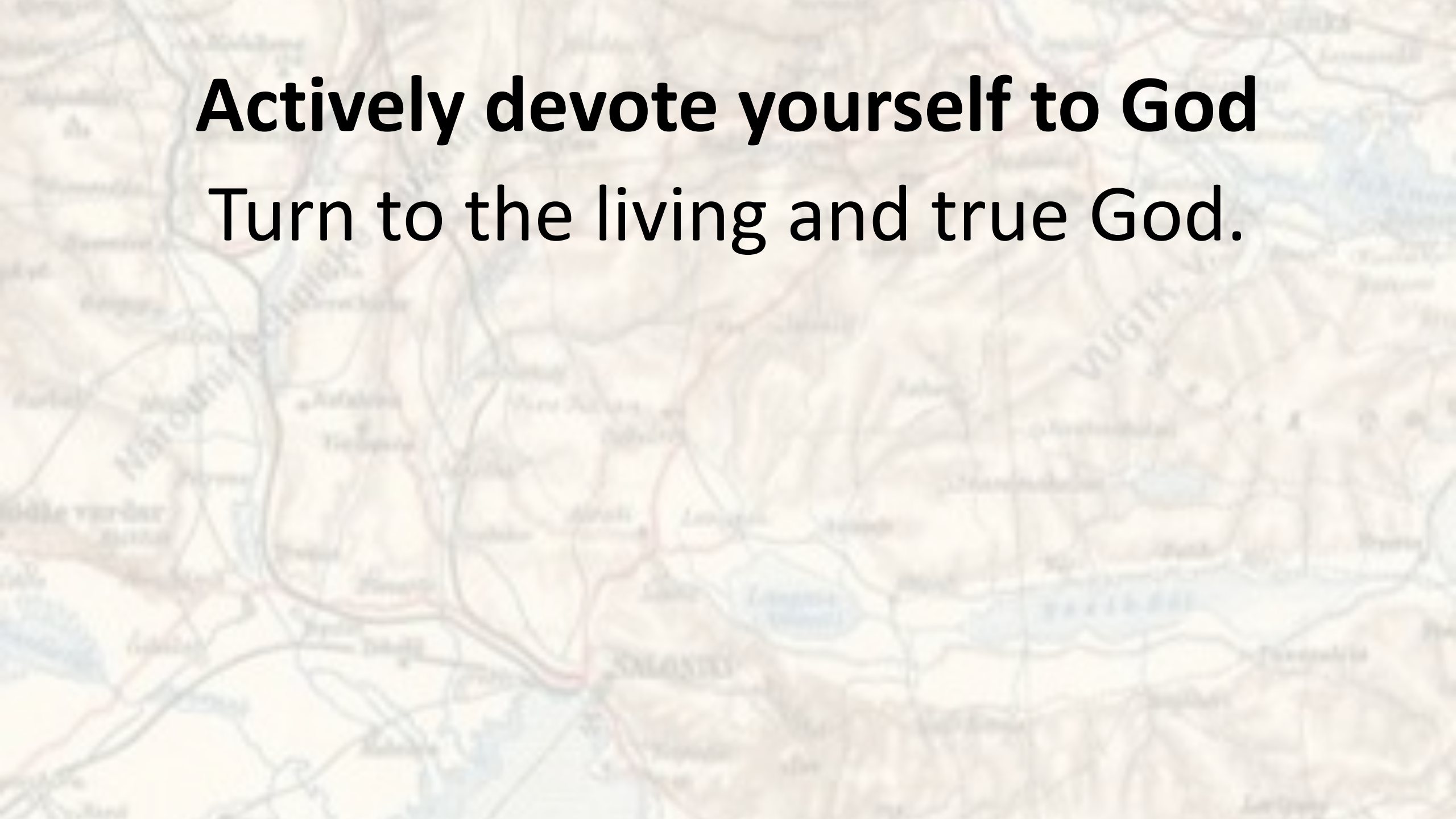
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**Actively devote yourself to God**  
Turn to the living and true God.



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what kind of a reception we had with you,

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Turning to God is more than a simple glance in  
His direction; it is a radical reorientation of life.

It is attaching yourself *to Him* as  
the only source of all that is good.

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# Background:

**Jeremiah 10:10**

But the LORD is **the true God**;  
He is **the living God** and the everlasting King.  
At His wrath the earth quakes,  
And the nations cannot endure His indignation.

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to serve **a living** and true **God**.

This is set in contrast to dead idols.

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## **1 Corinthians 8:4**

Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols,  
we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world,  
and that there is no God but one.

Turn to God in Christ; attach yourself  
to Him as the only source of all that  
you need and all that will satisfy.



# **Actively devote yourself to God**

Turn to the living and true God.

## **Serve the living and true God.**

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**to be a slave to a living and true God.**

The idea conveyed by this word  
is full or complete devotion.

True conversion is a complete reorientation of life that involves devoting oneself to active service with entire and glad submission.

Think of the way we devote ourselves to people or projects.

## **Romans 12:9-13**

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil;  
cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in  
brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;  
not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit,  
serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope,  
persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,  
contributing to the needs of the saints,  
practicing hospitality.





# Be Converted!

Repudiate your idols.

Actively devote yourself to God.

## Eagerly anticipate Jesus' return

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**Eagerly anticipate Jesus' return**

Eagerly anticipate His  
consummated reign.

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whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus,  
who rescues us from the wrath to come.

The statement “from heaven” draws  
attention to Christ’s current reign  
at the right hand of the Father.



# **Jesus currently reigns from heaven**

**Hebrews 8:1**

Now the main point in what has been said is this:  
we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the  
right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.

**1 Peter 3:22**

...who is at the right hand of God, having gone  
into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers  
had been subjected to Him.

**1 Corinthians 15:25**

For He must reign until He puts all His enemies under His feet.



Jesus ascended and is seated at the right hand of the Father and is currently reigning, having been given all authority in heaven and on earth, and we are now eagerly waiting for Him to consummate His reign.

# Jesus will consummate that reign

## 1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord Himself **will descend from heaven** with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

## 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8

For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well **when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven** with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

This will be a glorious day of vindication  
and relief for those in Christ but a day  
of great terror for those who have  
not turned to Him.

**Jeremiah 10:10**

But the LORD is the true God;  
He is the living God and the everlasting King.

**At His wrath the earth quakes,**  
And the nations cannot endure His indignation.





# **Eagerly anticipate Jesus' return**

Eagerly anticipate His consummated reign.

# **Eagerly anticipate His resurrection.**



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who rescues us from the wrath to come.

Jesus' resurrection is the foundation for our  
hope that He will yet resurrect us to glory.

## **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

## **Romans 6:5**

For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.





# **Eagerly anticipate Jesus' return**

Eagerly anticipate His consummated reign.

Eagerly anticipate His resurrection.

## **Eagerly anticipate His final rescue.**



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# What is this wrath to come?

**Jeremiah 10:10**

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# What is this wrath to come?

## Romans 2:5

But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.

## Romans 5:9

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

## 1 Thessalonians 5:9

For God has not destined us for wrath, **but for obtaining salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ.



If you belong to Christ, He has rescued you from God's just judgment and condemnation and has saved you and blessed you with all the riches of His grace.  
How ought this change you?

# Conclusion

Have you attached yourself to any idols that God is calling you to repudiate?

Are you actively devoting yourself to God, worshipping and serving Him in gladness?

Are you eagerly anticipating Jesus' return, and is this comforting and encouraging your soul?