

If with our lips we are saying that we are completely satisfied with God, but in our thoughts and emotions are bowing the knee to other gods, are we not **PROFESSING GOD-WORSHIPPERS BUT PRACTICING IDOLATERS?**

But now we must ask the crucial question. Is there any danger that we could fall into the sin of idolatry? Does Paul's warning have any relevance for us today? Let me illustrate.

John works hard and sometimes puts in overtime hours at his job. He feels he ought to be getting more out of life, so he takes up a hobby, whether fishing, camping, hunting, boating, biking, jogging, walking, bowling, hot air ballooning, woodworking, or model railroading. He has the philosophy that, whatever you do, you should throw yourself into it, and he does. Unfortunately, he finds less and less time to read his Bible or pray or attend church services. Spending time in developing his relationship to God and growing in Christlikeness becomes less and less important to him, until he is hardly on speaking terms with God, the Bible no longer interests him, and he hardly ever prays (except maybe a brief grace before meals), until gradually his co-workers, neighbors, and acquaintances don't even know that he is a Christian. He doesn't even realize that he has drifted away and departed from the living God and has made an idol out of what would otherwise be a wholesome and harmless recreation.

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