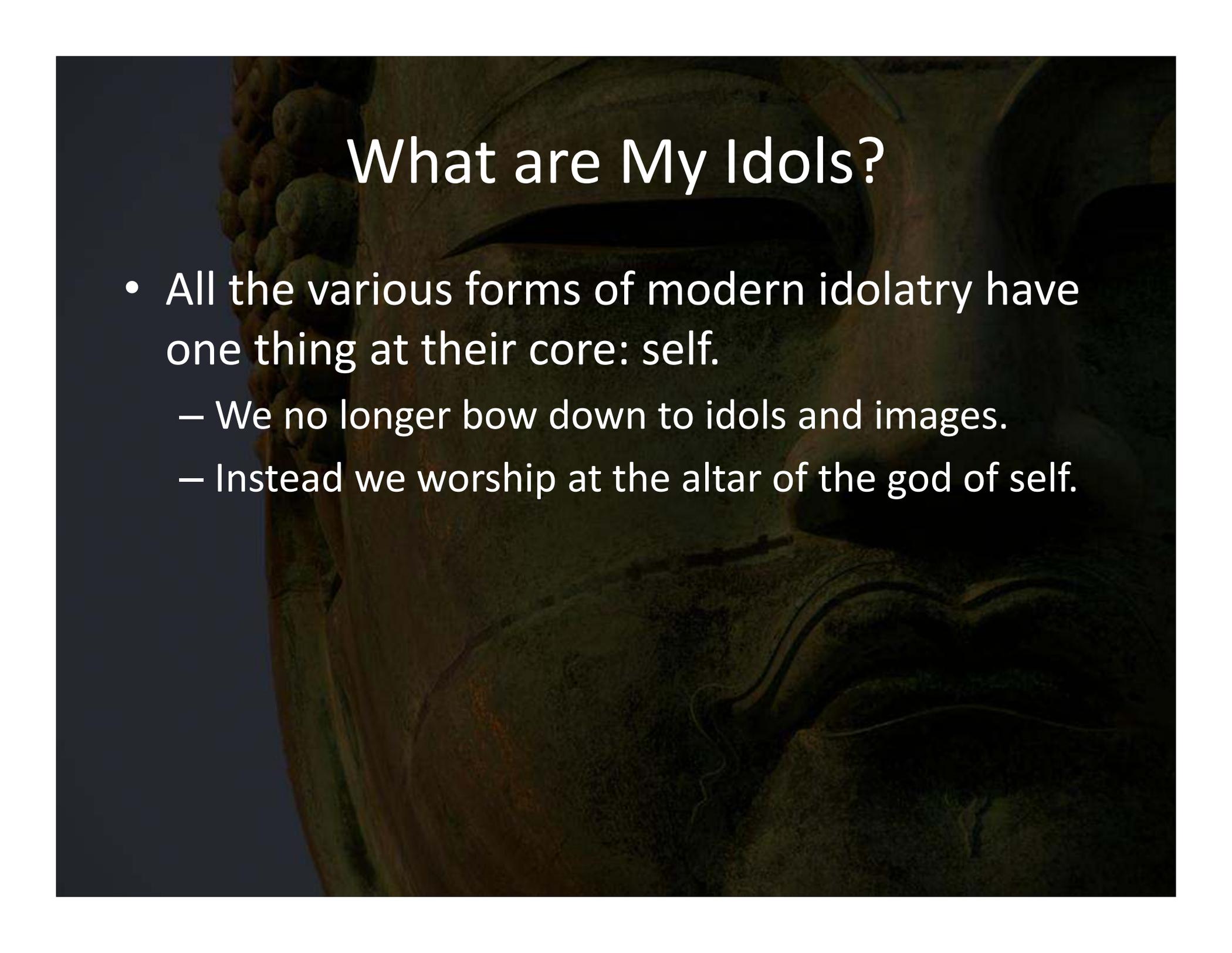


What are My Idols?

Exodus 20:3 - "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."



What are My Idols?

- All the various forms of modern idolatry have one thing at their core: self.
 - We no longer bow down to idols and images.
 - Instead we worship at the altar of the god of self.

What are My Idols?

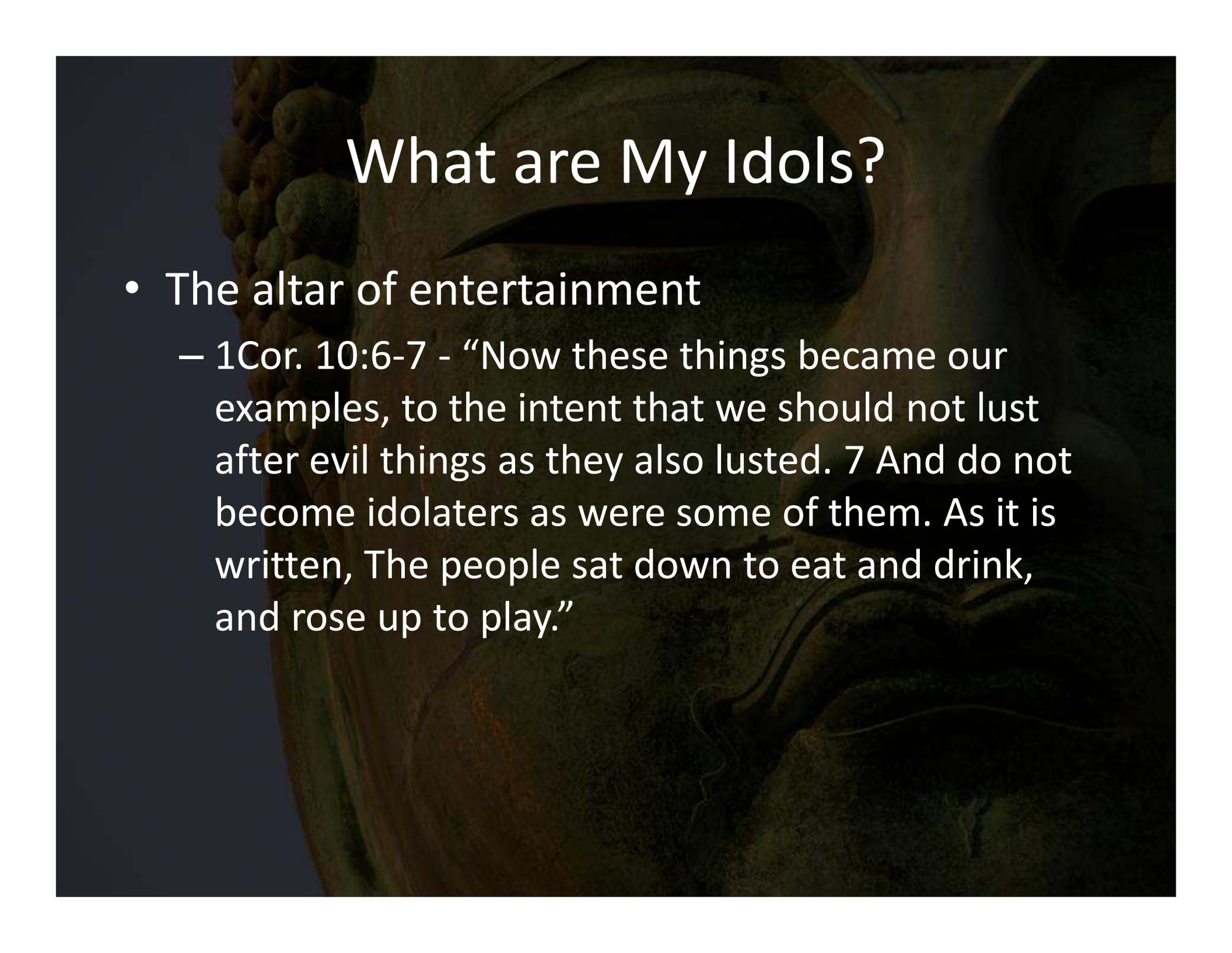
- The altar of materialism
 - Ex. 20:17 - “You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.”
 - Heb. 13:5 - “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have.”
 - 1Tim. 6:6-8 - “Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.”

What are My Idols?

- The altar of ego
 - Ecc. 2:21-23 - “For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. 22 For what has man for all his labor, and for the striving of his heart with which he has toiled under the sun? 23 For all his days are sorrowful, and his work burdensome; even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity.”
 - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you”

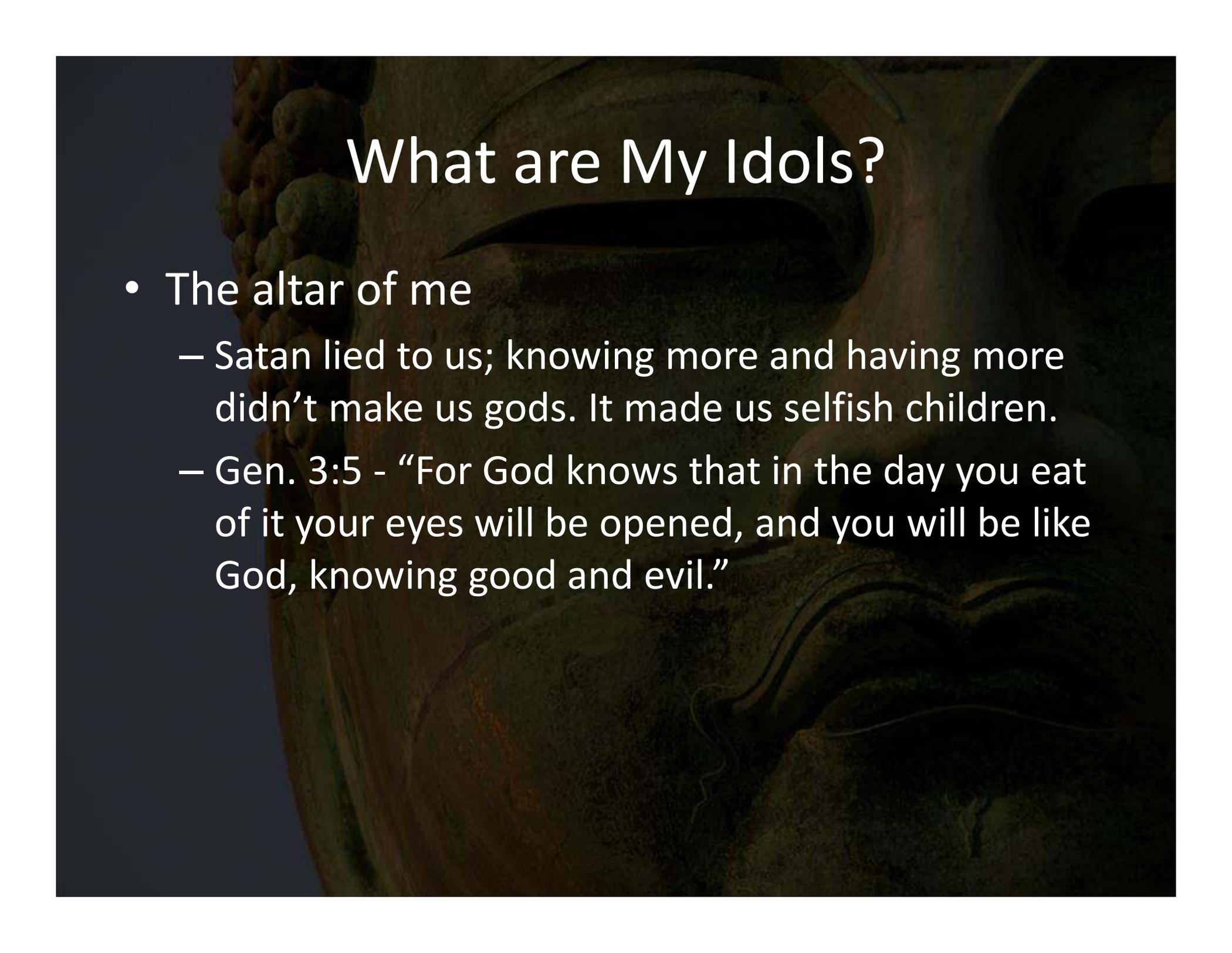
What are My Idols?

- The altar of science
 - 2Peter 3:10-13 - “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

The background of the slide is a dark, close-up photograph of a stone or metal idol face. The idol has a serene expression with closed eyes and a slight smile. It is wearing a crown or headdress made of numerous small, round beads or stones. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the stone and the details of the face.

What are My Idols?

- The altar of entertainment
 - 1Cor. 10:6-7 - “Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. 7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”



What are My Idols?

- The altar of me
 - Satan lied to us; knowing more and having more didn't make us gods. It made us selfish children.
 - Gen. 3:5 - "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

How Can A Christian Be An Idolater?

- All idolatry has at its core the three lusts of 1John 2:15-17...
 - “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

How Can A Christian Be An Idolater?

- All idolatry makes one a fool
 - Rom. 1:21-26ff - “Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions...”

How Can A Christian Be An Idolater?

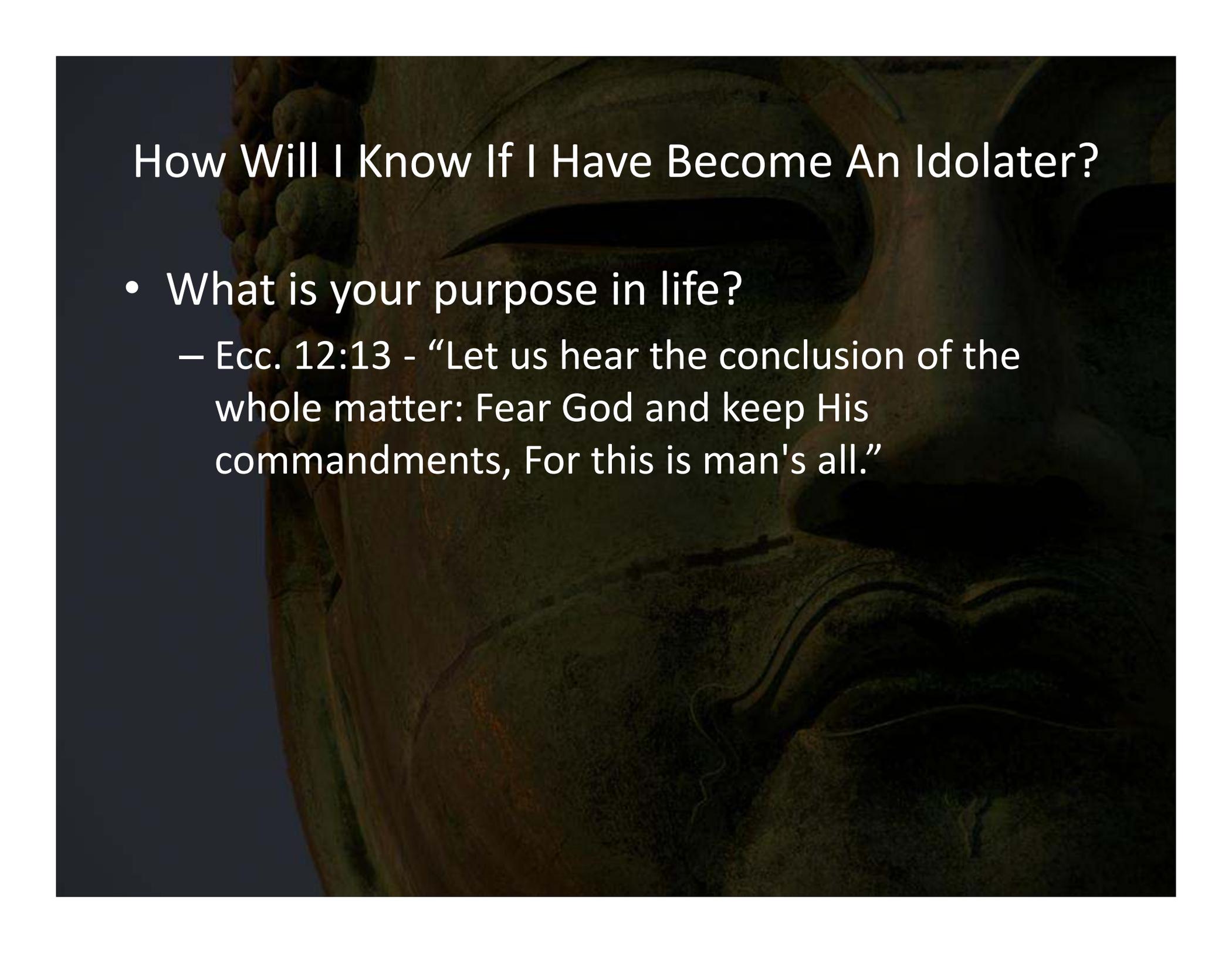
- Idolatry: Greek, eidololatreia; “image worship” (Strong’s)
 - In the beginning stages of idolatry, no one worships the image itself
 - The idol simply served two purposes:
 - to localize the god it represents
 - to visualize the god it represents
 - Inevitably, people end up worshipping the image, even forgetting the god it represents

How Can A Christian Be An Idolater?

- Contemporary idolatry is anything that displaces God
 - In our time, idolatry is not just the worship of images; any strong desire for material things that replaces our desire for God is a form of idolatry
 - Any person, activity, cause, or object to which we devote more of our time and resources than we do to God is an idol
 - Matt 6:21, 24 - “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... 24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

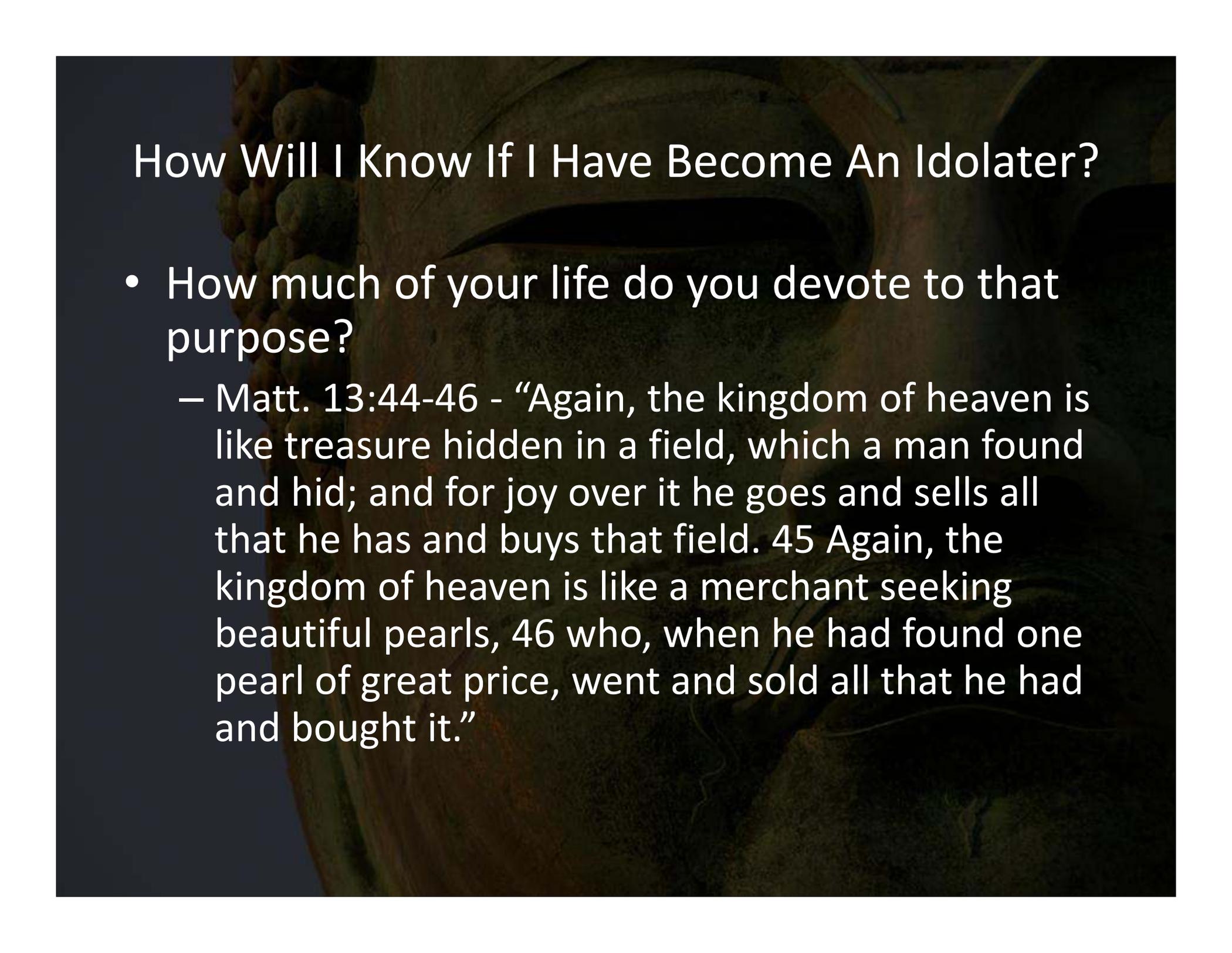
How Can A Christian Be An Idolater?

- Therefore, we can be idolaters when we make things other than God Himself our highest priority in life
- Good things and spiritually neutral objects can be made into idols: our mates, occupations, families, home, leisure



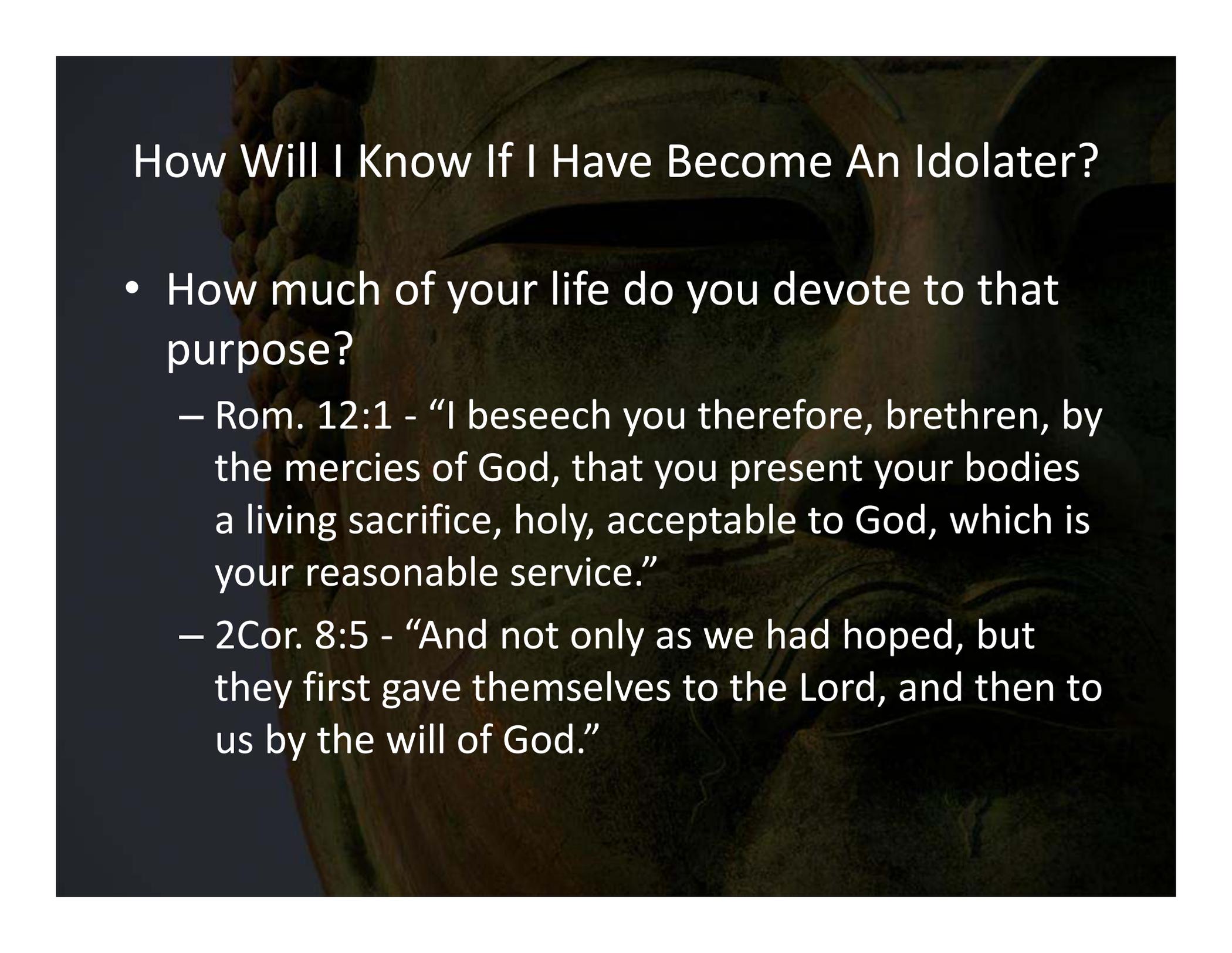
How Will I Know If I Have Become An Idolater?

- What is your purpose in life?
 - Ecc. 12:13 - “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.”



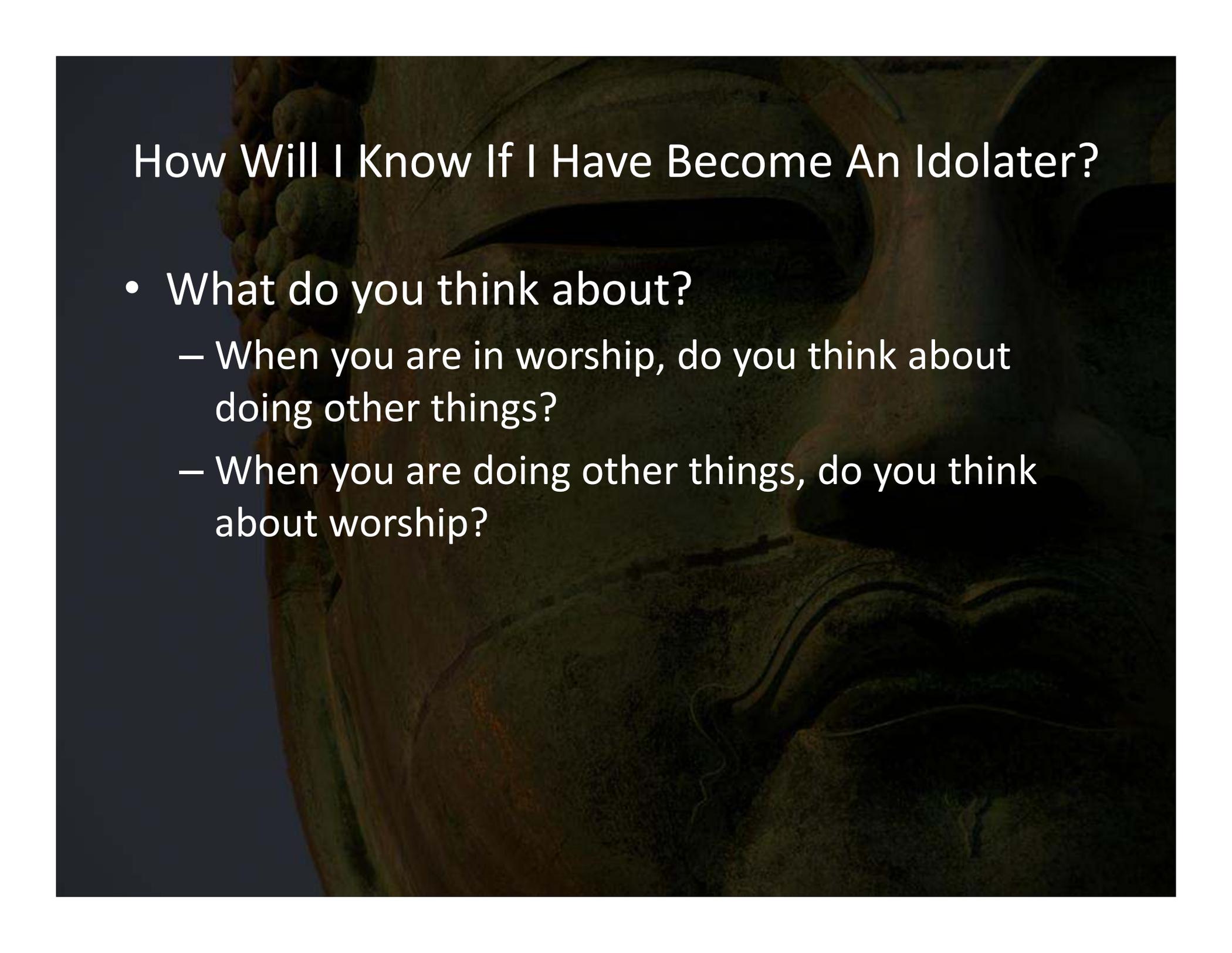
How Will I Know If I Have Become An Idolater?

- How much of your life do you devote to that purpose?
 - Matt. 13:44-46 - “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”



How Will I Know If I Have Become An Idolater?

- How much of your life do you devote to that purpose?
 - Rom. 12:1 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”
 - 2Cor. 8:5 - “And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.”



How Will I Know If I Have Become An Idolater?

- What do you think about?
 - When you are in worship, do you think about doing other things?
 - When you are doing other things, do you think about worship?

How Will I Know If I Have Become An Idolater?

- Not until we love God with all of our being and love others as ourselves will there be no room in our hearts for idolatry
 - Matt. 22:36-40 - “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”