



# APPNOTES

**Date:** September 30-October 4, 2019

**Series:** Chasing Carrots

**Ephesians 4:11-13** When someone mentions idols I imagine round-bellied Buddhas perched on Chinese restaurant counters, or the golden calf the Israelites created in the wilderness. Psalm 115:4 says “Their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands.” The Passion Translation says, “The unbelievers worship what they make—their wealth and their work.” Although we are not carving idols, the principle remains—we tend to worship that which man has created, such as our job, our house, or a celebrity. It’s easier to believe in something tangible, rather than in the God we cannot see. But there’s a problem with that. Only the unseen God can save us and meet our every need. No matter what we put our hand to, God wants us to know that everything we have comes from His hand. Worship Him. Recognize His worth.

**Jeremiah 2:13** Jeremiah outlines for us two evils. First, God’s people turn their backs on Him and refuse the living water He provides. Second, they dig their own cisterns by their own hands. In other words, they decide they can find their own way without God. Living water represents Jesus and His word. The broken cistern can represent any false religion, humanistic philosophy, or entertainment, which appears to satisfy but does not. Root beer, cola, and lemonade may please our palate and take away our thirst, but they can’t hydrate us like water. Only God’s word and a relationship with Him will provide the life-giving refreshment we need to live for His purposes.

**Acts 17:24-25** This scripture is from Paul’s speech to the Athenians. Paul became deeply troubled when he saw that Athens was full of idols. He frequently preached the gospel in the marketplace to anyone who would listen and often bantered with Greek philosophers. Finally, they asked him to share his “philosophy” at the Areopagus, a quieter public forum. He began by mentioning one of the inscriptions he had read, “TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.” Then he introduced them to the God that no one can see. It takes faith to worship a God we can’t touch. But it’s the God we can’t see who created

all that we can see. So why worship something He created? Maybe we can't see Him, but we can know Him. The believer in Christ knows the unknown God.

**Acts 19:23-26** Paul stirred up a lot of trouble in the city of Ephesus. He continually preached that idols made with human hands weren't gods. His powerful preaching affected the local economy and almost caused a riot. Those who manufactured idols of the goddess Diana lost income and they weren't happy about it. Their selfish interests were showing. False gods look shiny and appealing, but their charm is deceptive. For example, when we chase after money and fame, we can wind up being used for someone else's greedy gain. Jesus had no selfish motives when He went to the cross to save us. Only the God who knows our hearts can really reach our hearts. Worship Him.

**1 John 2:15-17** Hollywood has created many science fiction and fantasy films. The writers, directors, and actors show us a different world, a better world. What if we really could tap into a perfect universe? Actually, we can. It's called the kingdom of God and is available within every born-again believer. (Luke 17:21-22) So how do we discover this domain? By studying God's Word and walking in His ways. Too often we focus on our natural world and forget about the kingdom within. This world as we know it will pass away, but the kingdom of God will exist forever. If we are spending eternity with God in His kingdom, which world should we focus upon? The one where we will live eternally.

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