

## January 5

**Scriptures:** Read Ephesians 5

**Key Verse:** “For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure, or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.” (Ephesians 5:5) (NIV)

### Overview

An idolater is a worshipper of idols. He is someone who by his action denies the great foundational statement of faith from Israel, “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.” The Bible, especially the Old Testament, was written in a world that worshipped a multitude of gods — its message was radical and offensive: there is one God alone, and only Him shall you serve. The contemporary idolater, however, though he may agree intellectually with the Bible’s message, chooses at the same time to “worship” other “gods.” His loyalties are divided.

These days, we hear sinful choices referred to as “compulsive behaviour.” The psychologists look back into a person’s history and blame neurotic behaviour on childhood sexual abuse, deprivation, or any other negative influence which caused some kind of twist in character. We cast the compulsive sinner as victim. It’s as though his history has determined his destiny.

I suppose, to a certain extent, it’s true that heredity and environment have a great deal to do with how our lives are shaped. Nevertheless, the Bible is very clear in its insistence that ultimately you and I are responsible for our choices, whether compulsive or not.

If immorality, impurity, or greediness consistently colour our living, we are setting up false gods in our lives. We can point the finger of blame anywhere we want, but from God’s perspective there’s only one direction to point when apportioning blame. If we insist on worshipping other gods, God will abandon us to their care.

### Prayer

O God, from reading this chapter there is a burning desire within us to walk as children of light, be filled with the Spirit, and submit to one another in the fear of Your Person. We thank You always, Father, for all things in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.