

Altar Call **1 John 5:21**

FINAL WORDS. 1 John 5:21

1. A closing contrast.

- “Idols” 5 chapters, 105 verses, last chapter, last verse, last word! WHY?
- Contrast with v. 20: “true” 3 X’s: Him who is true...we are in Him who is true...Jesus Christ...the true God.

2. A pastor’s heart. “Little children...”

- A term of affection. John loves them as a spiritual father/shepherd.
- A term of vulnerability. Little children are susceptible.

3. A responsibility given. “...keep yourselves from idols.”

- “keep yourselves” – requires action

→ Idols are calling us to their altars. “Altar Call” God is calling us to Himself.

HOW TO KEEP YOURSELF FROM IDOLS: 2 OLD TESTAMENT PICTURES

1. Fear the LORD first. Isaiah 8:11-15

- Fear is a powerful force in our lives and can often reveal our idols.
- Historical context (circa 730 BC)
 - For 200 years God’s people divided into 2 nations: Israel & Judah
 - Judah was now being threatened by 2 nations: Israel and Syria
- King Ahaz of Judah was scared.
 - 7:2: “the heart of Ahaz and the heart of the people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind”

→ What to do? What do you do when you are afraid?

- God’s direction: v.11-14: Fear the LORD... and He will be for you a “sanctuary” (v.14)

2. Feast on the LORD first. Psalm 81

- The Inviting and Satisfying LORD: Come to Me and eat.
- In Psalm 81, God is reminding His people of how He rescued them from slavery in Egypt. v.6-7
- God is inviting His people to feast on HIM. Ref. Jeremiah 2:11-13