

Growing in Christ

January 14 - March 10



Beholding & Becoming



And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is **the image of God...**

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of **the glory of God** in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 4:3-4; 6

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed into the same image** from one degree of glory to another.

2 Cor 3:17

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, **because we shall see him as he is.**

1 John 3:2



CHRIST FORMED IN YOU

The Power of the Gospel for Personal Change

BRIAN G. HEDGES

“*Beholding* the glory of Christ is the *means* of *becoming* like Christ in His glory... The vision of God’s glory in Christ in the gospel has transforming power. *As we see Him, we become like Him.*”

Brian Hedges





Christ

**Legalism/
Moralist**

**License/
Relativism**

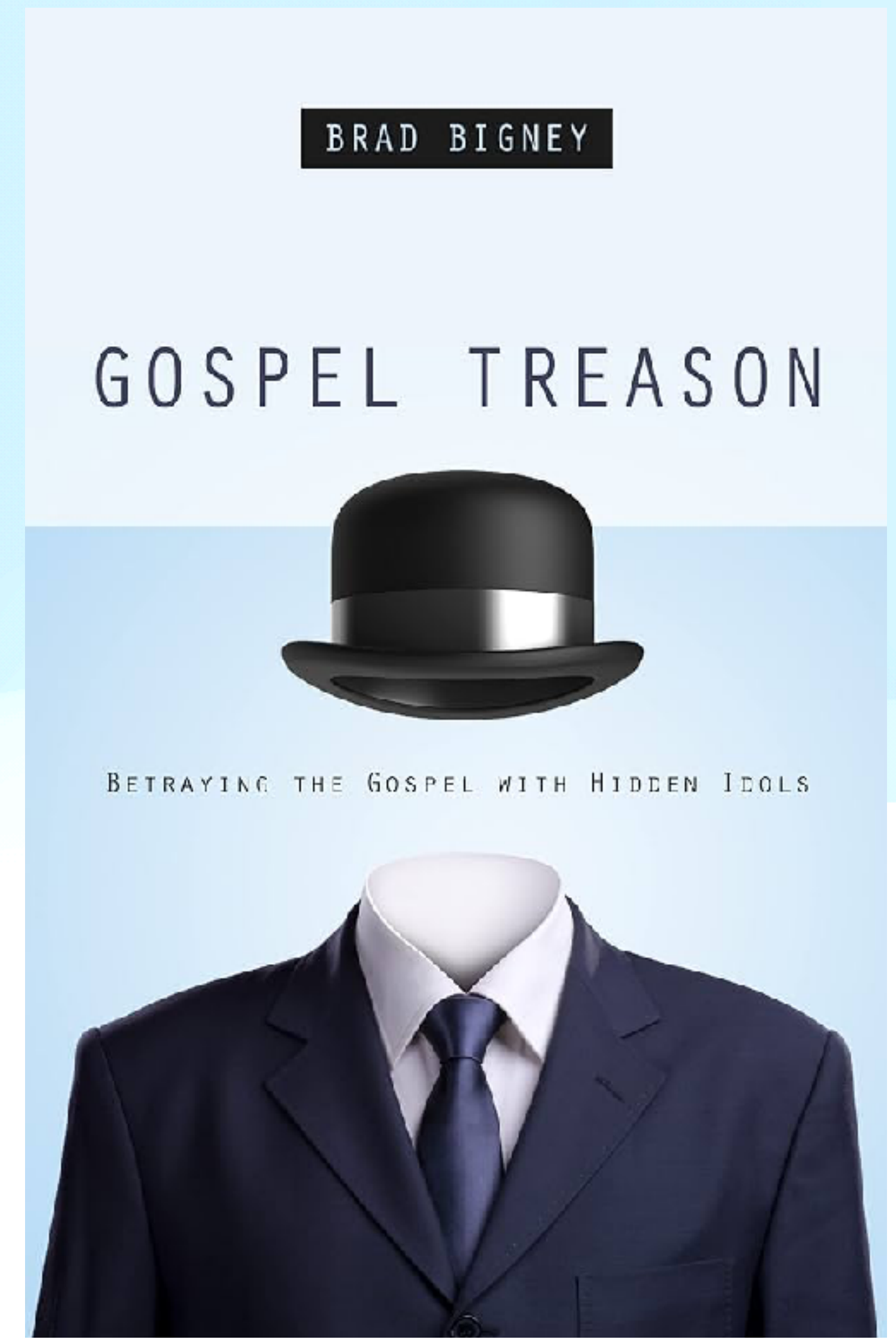
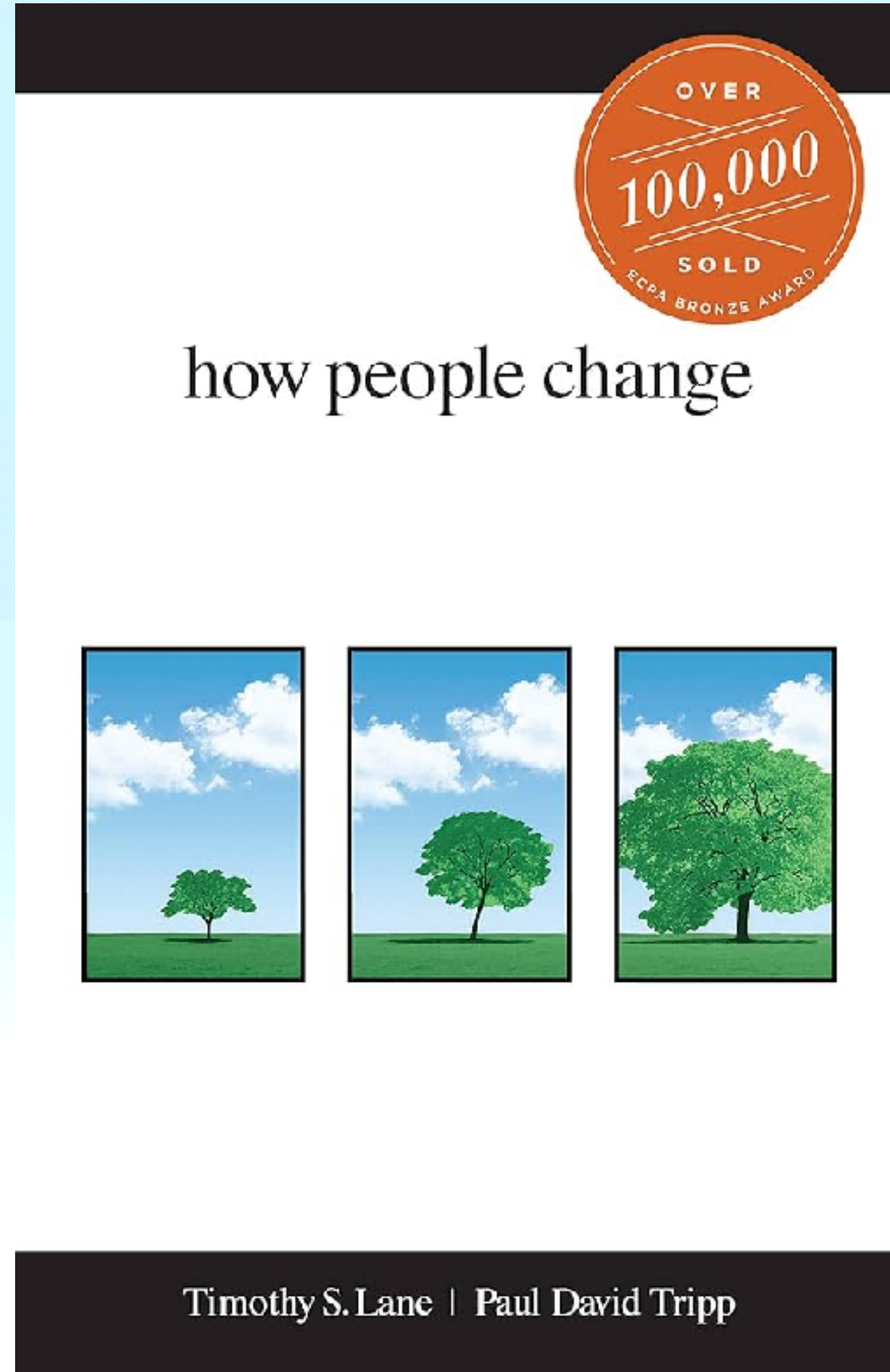
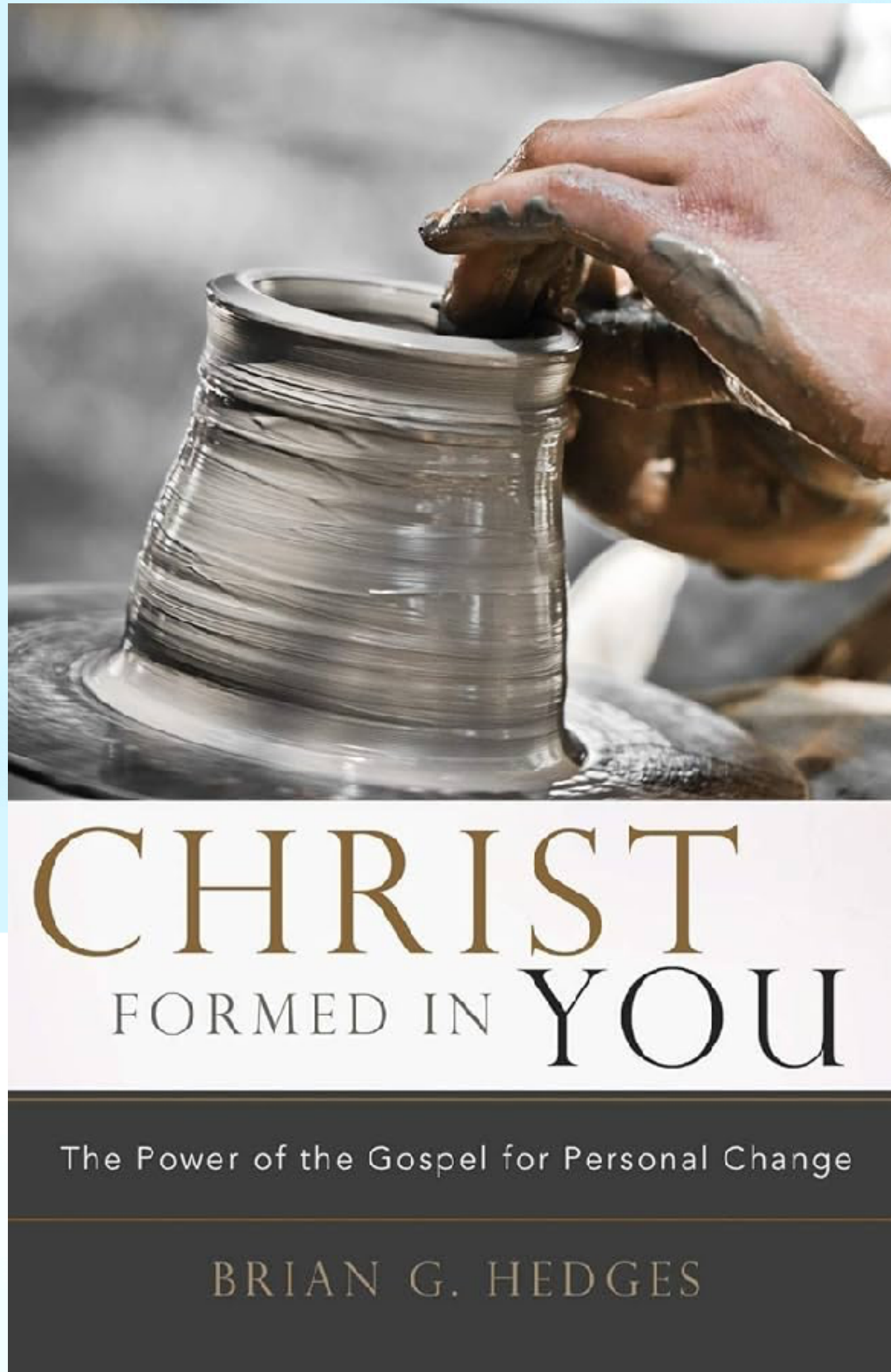
Christ GRACE and TRUTH

Legalism/Moralist

License/Relativism

TRUTH
grace

GRACE
truth



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Session 2: Idols of the Heart

Growing in Christ

January 21, 2024





Option 1



Option 2



Which one is easier?



Which one will give you a better lawn?

Idols
of the Heart:
The
Sneaky
Subtle
Suffocating
Sin beneath the Sin



Idols of the Heart:
Sneaky



Idols of the Heart: **Sneaky**

Idols pray on “good things”

For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, ***your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.***

2 Corinthians 11:2-3

Idols of the Heart: **Subtle**



Idols of the Heart: **Subtle**

Idols turn “good things”
into God things

...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. Professing to be wise they became fools, and ***exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man...***

...they ***exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator...***

Romans 1:21-23; 25



Idols of the Heart: **Suffocating**

Has a nation ***changed its gods***, which are not gods? But My people have ***changed their Glory for what does not profit***. Be astonished, O heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid; be very desolate,' says the LORD. 'For My people have committed **two evils**:

They have ***forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters,***
and ***hewn for themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.***

Jeremiah 2:11-13

Idols of the Heart: Definition

An idol is *anything* or *anyone* that begins to *capture our hearts and affections* more than God.

Idols of the Heart: **Definition**

“Sin is what we do when we are
not satisfied with God.”

John Piper

Idols of the Heart:
**Why Is Idolatry such
a Big Deal?**



Idols of the Heart:
**Why Is Idolatry such
a Big Deal?**

Idolatry is worshiping
another God

“‘I just feel rage,’ Steve said, looking like an overheated car. ‘Every time the guy in the next office walks by me, he shoots me a condescending look. I can understand why people murder.’”

Ed Welch, *Motives: Why Do I Do the Things I Do?*

Steve is angry and controlled by this other person. That's obvious. But *why* is he angry? Chances are that Steve's anger has something to do with his worship. Perhaps he worships at the altar of respect, and he has not been given the respect he demands. As a result, he is against his co-worker. He has declared war!

Ed Welch, *Motives: Why Do I Do the Things I Do?*

But even more, he is against God, resisting the fact that God uses difficult people to refine us. Instead of submitting to God's sovereign decisions and learning to forgive and love, Steve is saying, 'I will be God, at least in this case.' His desires rule. Here is a general principle: your attitude toward God will be revealed in your worst human relationship. If you hate someone, you are ultimately hating God. If you don't forgive, you are usurping God's authority to act as judge.

Ed Welch, *Motives: Why Do I Do the Things I Do?*

Idols of the Heart:
**Why Is Idolatry such
a Big Deal?**

Idolatry blinds you
to your sin

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.

James 4:1-2

Idols of the Heart:
**Why Is Idolatry such
a Big Deal?**

Idolatry binds you

“We know a good thing has become a counterfeit god when its demands on you exceed proper boundaries...An idolatrous attachment can lead you to break any promise, rationalize any indiscretion, or betray any other allegiance, in order to hold on to it. It may drive you to violate all good and proper boundaries. To practice idolatry is to be a slave.”

Tim Keller



Idols of the Heart: How to Identify Idols of the Heart

Idols of the Heart:
**How to Identify Idols
of the Heart**

**Follow the trail of
your time, money,
and affection**



Idols of the Heart:
**How to Identify Idols
of the Heart**

**Take note of your
heart during
suffering**



“For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us”

2 Corinthians 1:8-10

Idols of the Heart:
**How to Identify Idols
of the Heart**

Look for chaos



““Do you have any conflict in your life? Do you experience moments of extreme irritation toward someone you otherwise love? Are there people who simply push your buttons more than others? Do certain things drive you crazy on a daily basis? Why does it seem that people, things, and situations are in our way? Why do we seldom go through a day without some experience of conflict?”

Paul Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*

The answer to all of these questions is that we think of our lives as our own, and we are more committed to the purposes of our own kingdom than we are to God's. We need to recognize that the people in our way have been sent to us by a wise and sovereign King. He never gets a wrong address and always chooses just the right moment to expose our hearts and realign them to His.”

Paul Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*

Idols of the Heart:
**How to Identify Idols
of the Heart**

**Ask Some
Questions**



Ask Some Questions

1. Am I willing to sin to get it?



Ask Some Questions

**2. Am I willing to
sin if I think I
will lose it?**



Ask Some Questions

**3. Do I run to it as
a refuge instead
of God?**





Worksheet: Identifying Personal Idols

Idols of the Heart: **How to Overcome Idolatry**

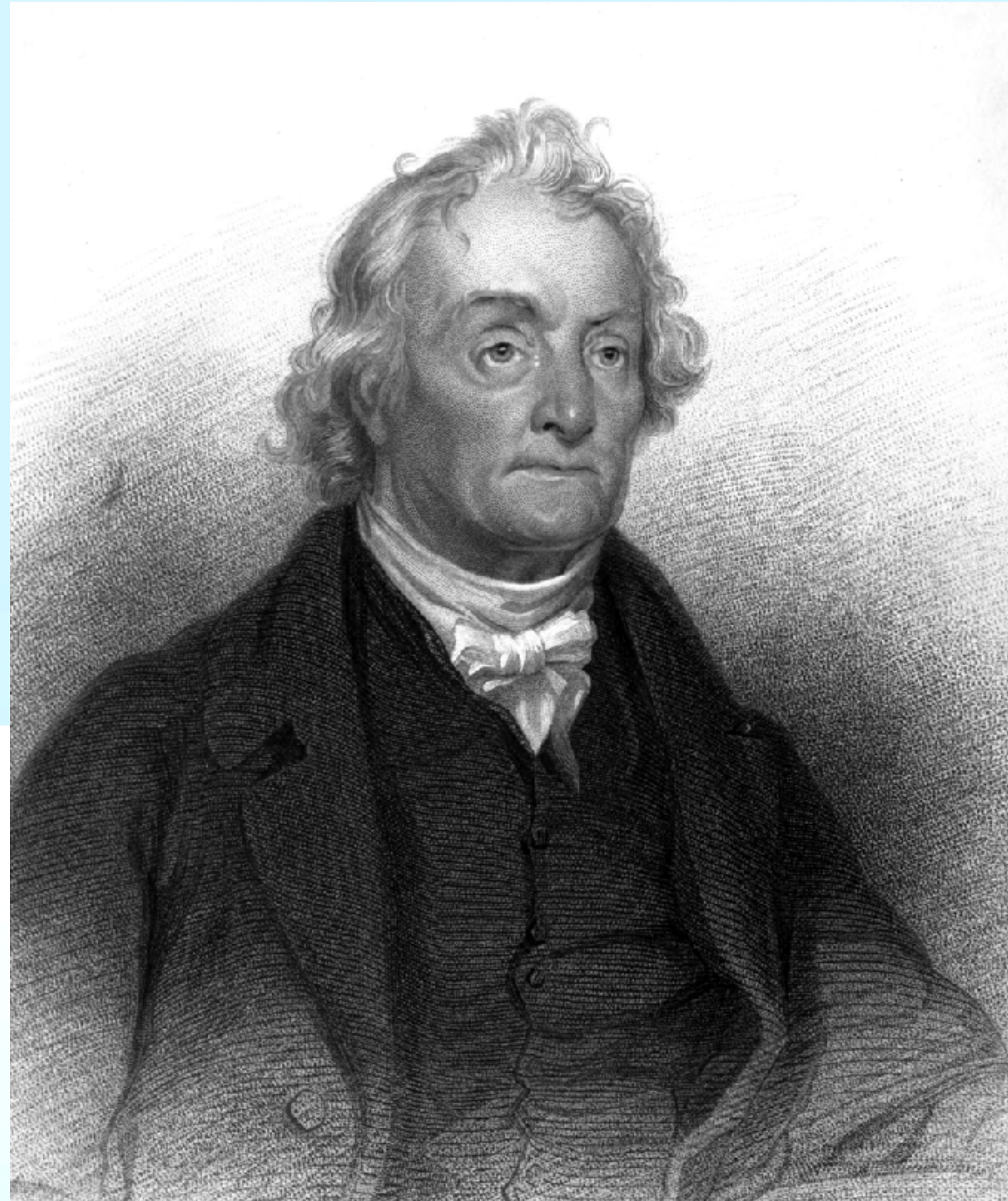


Idols of the Heart:
**How to Overcome
Idolatry**

Repentance and Faith

Idols of the Heart:
**How to Overcome
Idolatry**

“Simple and Pure
Devotion to Christ”



Thomas Chalmers

“There is not one personal transformation in which the heart is left without ***an object of ultimate beauty and joy***. Its desire for one particular object may be conquered, but its desire to have some object is unconquerable. ***The only way to dispossess the heart of an old affection is by the expulsive power of a new one.***”



