

The Westside Pulpit—Jan 18, 2009 [2009.1.3.am]

God and Suffering—“Only Bring What you can Carry (and we Cannot Carry Anything)” or “Do we Serve an Eternal God Who Carries us, or gods we can Carry?”

Isaiah 46

Silly and Useless Things Which Usurp our Devotion to God

I. A vivid image of how \_\_\_\_\_ our idols are (1 – 2)

II. A reason that our idols are so lame & helpless—they are  
\_\_\_\_\_/not \_\_\_\_\_ (3 – 7)

III. It is foolish to devote ourselves to created things/people/ideas/desires  
because only an eternal God’s \_\_\_\_\_ will be fulfilled,  
ultimately (8 – 11)

IV. \_\_\_\_\_ to, and \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to the  
Eternal Creator God is our only source of hope and salvation (12 – 13)

## V. Conclusion

1. Things/people/ideas/attitudes/desires become idols when we give attention and devotion to them which should rightly be directed to God, and the things of God
2. When life becomes difficult, we all-too-often turn to these idols for comfort
3. We naturally turn to these idols in difficulty because we have been devoting ourselves to them while life is “easy”
4. Distress and trouble are designed to make us wholly & ultimately depend on God, and the things of God for our hope and help (2Cor 1:8, 9)
5. Instead, our devotion to idols, instead of bringing hope & help, results in hardship and difficulty
6. But, as Christians, this kind of hardship is of no real value (1Pet 2:20; 3:14)
7. God is the Only One who is worthy of the kind of devotion we lavish on our idols
8. God is the Only One who can carry us—why would we devote ourselves to things/people/ideas/attitudes/desires which WE have to carry around?
9. Why would we expect hope & help in suffering from a thing/person/idea/attitude which actually is the source of problems (because we worship it)?

**Take Home Idea:** Useless \_\_\_\_\_ is avoided when we devote ourselves to God instead of idols; and devotion to God, and not our idols, enables us to bear suffering.