

# Toys and gods

*"You shall have no other gods before me."*

*Exodus 20:3 (NIV)*

I saw it on the internet. It caused me to dream about what I might want to do if I was rich.

What caught my eye recently was a flame orange, restored Concours, GS 455, Stage 1, 1972 Buick convertible. It was a spectacular car by any standards and apparently had won first in class awards in several competitions. I could go on and on about it but I know my readers have little interest in what catches my eye.

However, I must admit that I have a weakness for cars.

A while back I attended a classic and antique car auction in Toronto. I love looking at how others have spent money restoring vehicles—or have found a car owned from new by some elderly lady or gentleman who only drove it to the bank and church.

The idea of looking at cars like these could easily become an obsession for me if I did not regulate my thoughts and actions. I simply couldn't

afford any of the cars that were auctioned off—and if I could afford it, I do not think I would invest in one of them.

There is a potential for any one of us to have gods that are machinery—such as cars—or we can make gods of our children and grandchildren, or make gods of gold such as our investments, retirement funds, and money in the bank.

It is so easy in western society to learn to trust our wealth to keep us from harm, or to care for us when we have special needs.

Sadly, for some people, it is a fact that when we come to the end of our journey through this life and are about to depart this world, the ground is level.

What I mean is that rich or poor, we leave whatever we have behind for others while we pass through the valley of the shadow of death alone.

Every one of us has a need to examine our own hearts to see if the Lord is our one and only God, or if we have

put the gods of this life on thrones in our hearts.

Idolatry is not just something practiced by people in primitive societies. It can be found right in our western 21st century society today.

If you belong to the Lord and are getting into idolatry somehow, you may discover that the thing or person you are making into a god will be taken from you. If your wealth is your god—instead of the Lord—He may take those precious possessions from you so that you might return to worshipping and trusting Him alone.

Is it time for you to examine your heart and see if the toys of this world have become gods to you? Let go of what you cannot keep in order to take hold of that which you can never lose. Make sure that you serve the living God and He shall in turn take care of you.

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