

October 11, 2015  
Celebration | 8:45 am  
Elevation | 10:45 am



**About today's guest speaker: Jimmy Simpson** just started working for FEBC (Far East Broadcasting Company), a Christian broadcast company that shares the Good News among the nations through media. Jimmy is a missionary on leave with OMF serving in Asia and he and his wife, Chloe, will be returning to the field after Chloe gets U.S. citizenship.

## **Animism:** Worshipping the created instead of the Creator · Romans 1:21-25

### **What is Animism?**

Animism is a worldview which assumes physical objects contain spiritual power which can be controlled or manipulated through rituals.

### **What do animists want?**

- Power
- Prosperity
- Protection
- Pragmatic, not personal
- Present, not eternal

### **Why should we study Animism?**

- We need to be better equipped to share the Gospel.
- We need to prevent animism from creeping into our faith.

### **Worship the Creator, not the created!**

*"For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."* Romans 1:21-25

### **Dangers of Animism**

- Idolatry (Exodus 20:3, Psalm 135:15-18, Leviticus 19:4, 1 John 5:21)

### **How can we avoid animism creeping into our faith?**

**T.H.R.O.W. the idols away!**

- **T**hanksgiving (v. 21)
- **H**umility (v. 22)
- **R**ecognition (v. 23)
- **O**bedience (v.24)
- **W**orship (v.25)

*"The only way to free ourselves from the destructive influence of counterfeit gods is to turn back to the true one. The living God, who revealed himself both at Mount Sinai and on the Cross, is the only Lord who, if you find him, can truly fulfill you, and, if you fail him, can truly forgive you." - Tim Keller, Counterfeit Gods*

## Personal Reflection:

- Are there any idols that you have allowed into your life?
- Is there a place you try to find your complete fulfillment, security, and identity outside of God?
- Is there anything to which you are saying “No, Lord”?

## LifeGroup Discussion:

1. What do you think causes us to trust in idols more than in God alone?
2. Can you think of any examples of animism in America? How are they dangerous to our faith?
3. Are there any idols in your life that you need to remove from your life and replace with God?
4. How can we help each other THROW away the idols in our lives?
5. Read Romans 1:25 again. What are the lies that cause us to take our eyes off of God?

## Next Steps:

1. **GIVE • Faith Promise:** Join the story by contributing to support 90+ Calvary Missionaries through Faith Promise. Fill out the card in today’s bulletin and turn in the bottom portion to let us know of your commitment to support Global Missions. Be sure to designate “Missions” on the memo line of your check or when you give online. [calvarylife.org/faithpromise](http://calvarylife.org/faithpromise)
2. **PRAY • Prayer for the Persecuted Church:** Each year, the World Watch List ranks the top 50 countries where Christians face the most persecution. Use the World Watch List card in today’s bulletin and join us in prayer for those being persecuted around the world. [calvarylife.org/global](http://calvarylife.org/global)
3. **GO • Volunteer at Light the Night:** Light the Night is coming up on October 31 and is always a great outreach to those in our community. Use the invite card in today’s bulletin to invite someone to join you. You can also help out before, during and after the event. [calvarylife.org/ltn](http://calvarylife.org/ltn)
4. **LEARN MORE:** Visit one of the Missions lobby tables today and find out more about how you can get involved in God’s mission to preach the Good News to the ends of the earth. [calvarylife.org/reach](http://calvarylife.org/reach)
5. **SUBMIT • YIELD • SURRENDER:** Spend time in prayer yielding yourself to the power of the Holy Spirit to work in your life. Submit, yield, and surrender your will to the will of God. Do this during the week or visit one of the Prayer Points at the end of today’s service to have someone pray with you.