

2 Kings 17:15b (NLT2)

They worshiped worthless idols, so they became worthless themselves. They followed the example of the nations around them, disobeying the LORD's command not to imitate them.

Reading in 2 Kings chapter 17, the entire chapter talks about how Israel had turned it's back on the Lord and followed after the pagan gods of the people they were supposed to destroy. I would encourage you to read 2 Kings chapter 17 starting in verse 7 to the end of the chapter (Note, I was reading it from the NLT). And when you read verse 7 it sets the stage for the rest of the chapter.

† **2 Kings 17:7 (NLT2)** *This disaster came upon the people of Israel because they worshiped other gods. They sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them safely out of Egypt and had rescued them from the power of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.*

So, verse 7 talks about how they “*worshiped other gods*” and when we read today's verse, it shows us the results of them doing this.

† ***“They worshiped worthless idols, so they became worthless themselves.”***

For us, it's a word of caution, because when we start to bring the old things of this world into our ministries, into our churches and even into our homes, we start to deteriorate as a people, as a church and as a Christian home. And we find that the ministry God gave us, and our walk with the Lord, starts to “*became worthless themselves.*” And the reason is that we are now bringing things into a God given ministry, or even into our churches and homes that God told us to get rid of.

These are useless things that we thought were so great when we were in the world, therefore we tend to bring them into the church, or our own lives and ministries, and the results is that churches start to diminish, and some churches have even closed down because they tried to use man made things to worship God. And we see that when we read on in 2 Kings chapter 17, it says that.

† **2 Kings 17:33 (NLT2)** *And though they worshiped the LORD, they continued to follow their own gods according to the religious customs of the nations from which they came.*

Do you see it, it would be like saying that *though* the church *worshiped the LORD*, still, the people in the church *continued to follow their* old lifestyle *according to the* sinful way of life *from which they came.*

When we were new Christians, we tried to bring some of our old lifestyle with us in our relationship with the Lord, but as we grew in the Lord and in His word, we realized that those things do not belong in our relationship with the Lord, and they do not belong in the church at all.

But if we refuse to get rid of them and continue to bring them back into our homes and church, then the end of chapter 17 will happen in our churches and in our lives.

† **2 Kings 17:40-41 (NLT2)** *But the people would not listen and continued to follow their former practices. So while these new residents worshiped the LORD, they also worshiped their idols. And to this day their descendants do the same.*

And is that really what we want to say about the church we go to, or the legacy we are to leave to our children, or our walk with the Lord?

† **Leviticus 26:13 (NLT2)** *I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so you would no longer be their slaves. I broke the yoke of slavery from your neck so you can walk with your heads held high.*

† **Deuteronomy 5:33** *You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.*

† **Deuteronomy 10:12** *And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,*