

Zephaniah 1:5

Those who worship the host of heaven on the housetops; Those who worship and swear oaths by the LORD, But who also swear by Milcom;

Are we worshipping and looking to God, but also the false idols and things of this world at the same time? That's what today's verse is talking about, and even in the Message bible it sounds even harsher, especially when we include verse 6.

† **Zephaniah 1:5-6 (MSG)** *I'll get rid of the people who sneak up to their rooftops at night to worship the star gods and goddesses; Also those who continue to worship GOD but cover their bases by worshiping other king-gods as well; Not to mention those who've dumped GOD altogether, no longer giving him a thought or offering a prayer.*

When we read verse 6 that says, ***“Not to mention those who've dumped GOD altogether, no longer giving him a thought or offering a prayer.”*** We want to say “OUCH!” and the reason that we would no longer give God a thought, or even think about praying to Him, because we are in sin, and in order to be in, or commit a sin, we have to push God aside or totally away from ourselves while we do.

“I would never do such a thing” some may be thinking. Well, let me ask you, have you been to the movies lately or downloaded a movie, and was it an “R” rated movie full of nudity, sex, and profanity. In order to go into the theater and watch that movie, you in a sense say to Jesus, *“Uh, Jesus, can You please wait outside while I go watch this movie, and I'll catch up with you when it's over”* Almost like leaving your dog in the car while you run into the store. *“I love you Fido, but you can't go in here with me, you are not allowed.”*

I always recall what a worship leader said many years ago, and that was, *13-year-old year old daughter can not do it, neither should I* because if he didn't want his 13 year old daughter to do it, it meant it was something not good and that would be sin for her. But if it is a sin for her, it would be for him as well, because sin has nothing to do with age. Example: we would not want our 13-year-old daughter to go out and have sex, but do we think that it is ok to go out and have sex outside of marriage when we are over 18 or move out of our parent's house? Show me where it says that in the bible!

Did not Jesus even warn us when He said:

† **Luke 16:13 (NKJV)** *“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”*

Mammon is referring to money, but it can also be anything that we are replacing as a god in our life, as Jesus said in the same teaching that ***“Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?”*** Luke 16:11

“**True riches**” are not the riches of this world but are the treasures we are storing up in heaven, as Jesus told us about.

† **Matthew 6:19-21 (NLT2)** *“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”*

So, looking at these things, along with today’s verse, we need to ask ourselves what truly is “**the desire of our hearts**”? We know the Sunday school answer is Jesus, but anyone can say that as an answer. But just because we say it, does not mean that it is true in our lives. A man can say that he loves his wife, yet every night he goes out and sleeps with other women, or maybe not going out, but rather watching pornography with women having sex. In order to do that, he has to push aside his wife as being his wife, so he can have a sinful relationship with other women on a computer screen or even on the screen of their phone or tablet.

In order to do such a thing, you also have to push God aside, or once again as we read that he (or she) has “**dumped GOD altogether, no longer giving him a thought or offering a prayer**” because who would be thinking of God, or even dare pray to Him while they were committing such things?

But what we look at that as severe and would never do such a thing, but let’s look at a list of other things that you can replace the word “pornography” with and that causes us to “**dump GOD altogether, no longer giving him a thought or offering a prayer**”:

† **Galatians 5:19-21** *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Reading through this list, along with today’s verse, “**Those who worship and swear oaths by the LORD, But who also swear by Milcom**” we would remove the word “**Milcom**” and replace it with one or more of these sins that we commit, and when we do, we are pushing God aside or even out of our life for that moment, for a temporary physical pleasure that is not pleasing to God.

† **1 John 2:8 & 17** *Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*