Right Thinking in a World Gone Wrong
Chapter 5
American Idols
Entertainment, Escapism, and the Cult of Celebrity

I. American Idolatry and Popular Culture:
   a. Do you believe there is a cultural movement toward desiring fame and celebrity status? (pg. 64)
   b. Do you think our cultures apparent obsession with becoming famous or celebrities is healthy? Is it Christian? (pg. 64)

II. American Idolatry and the American Dream:
   a. How would you define the American Dream? (pg. 64-65)
   b. Does the American Dream align with what it means to be a Christ follower?
   c. What is the difference between how we used to view fame and how we now define celebrity? (pg. 65)
d. Would you agree that with the rise of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and handheld video technology many people are seeking all the more their 15 minutes of glory? If so, why? (pg. 65)

III. American Idolatry and the Cult of Celebrity:
   a. How would you define the “Cult of Celebrity”? (pg. 65)

   b. “To whatever degree this new entrepreneurial strand of idolatry may seem shocking to the innocently naïve, the truth remains that the _________ of people throughout world history has always been a central human fascination and struggle.” (pg. 66)

   c. What is the danger inherent in the Cult of Celebrity? (pg. 66)

IV. American Idolatry and the Sin of Self-Worship:
   a. “The sin of idolatry is a sin of the _________” (pg. 66 & Ezekiel 14:3-7)

   b. What is the sin of idolatry? (pg. 66-67 & Mark 12:30-31; cf. Revelation 2:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Deuteronomy 6:14)
c. **Read Romans chapter 1 and then explain Paul’s rationale behind idolatry.**  
(pg. 67)

d. **Why are men and women without excuse when they practice idolatry?** (pg. 68 & Rom. 1:18-20)

V. **The Emptiness of American Idolatry:**
a. **What are some ways that idolaters (both Christian and non-Christian) attempt to quench their ingrained desire to worship the one true God?** (pg. 68)

b. **How would you define what that author calls “the cotton-candy fate”?** (pg. 68)
c. Read Ecclesiastes chapter 2 and summarize what King Solomon learned. (pg. 69)

d. Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 and summarize what King Solomon learned. (pg. 69)

VI. A Right Response to American Idolatry:
   a. “The cult of celebrity promises something only God can provide. Those who love it and follow after it, like all who worship idols, will ultimately be __________ and find it __________.” (pg. 69)

   b. What are three (3) “Right Responses” the author gives to the dangers posed by American Idolatry? (pg. 69-70)
      i. Philippians 3:2-11—
      ii. Proverbs 4:20-27 (cf. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)—

c. The Bible’s answer to sinful man is this: You will never be satisfied until you realize that your every desire for more in this life is, in reality, a desire for more of __________. That must be our answer as well.” (pg. 70)