

Being There: What It Means to Live in the Present

The call of Christ engages how we function within time. It is meant to profoundly impact how we function within the now. This talk shows how our idolatries get us stuck in either the past or the future. Only His finished work can liberate us to live more fully in the moment.

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INTRODUCTION

In our bodies we have a relationship to both space (I AM HERE) and time (IT IS NOW).

In terms of our consciousness within time we have a sense of past, present and future.

In terms of concrete and real experience we only have the present. This is because the past is over and done with, existing only as memory. When it comes to the future this has not yet materialised and exists only as possibility.

It is important to see how our idols impact our relationship to time in a negative manner.

1. How our Idols negatively impact our relationship to the past.

Our idols are finite and unable to deliver what we expect of them.

Whenever memory goes into the past and recalls the failure of an idol we enter feelings of shame.

This shame is linked to inadequacy.

The more idols we have the more vulnerable we become to the impact of *shame*.

This paralyses us in relationship to our past.

2. How our Idols negatively impact our relationship to the future.

The future contains multiple possibilities many of which are beyond our control.

This makes us vulnerable as we look ahead.

When a future possibility threatens one of our idols we enter feelings of *anxiety*.

The more idols we have the more subject we are to worry and anxiety.

This brings a paralysis in relationship to our future.

3. How our Idols negatively impact our relationship to the present.

Our idols tend to pull us either into the anxiety of the future or the shame of the past.

This means we get displaced in terms of the present where real life is experienced.

When we do come into the present it is so often the case that our idols fail us.

This empties the present moment of meaning.

In this state we enter the feeling of *boredom*.

The more idols we have functioning in our lives the more vulnerable we are to boredom.

4. Overcoming a distorted relationship to Time.

A. The PAST

On the basis of Christ's finished work on the cross we can look into the past and face it without shame.

B. The FUTURE

On the basis of the hope we have in Christ we can look into the future and face it without anxiety.

C. The PRESENT

Christ's work on the cross and our hope in Him for the future frees us to live more fully in the present.