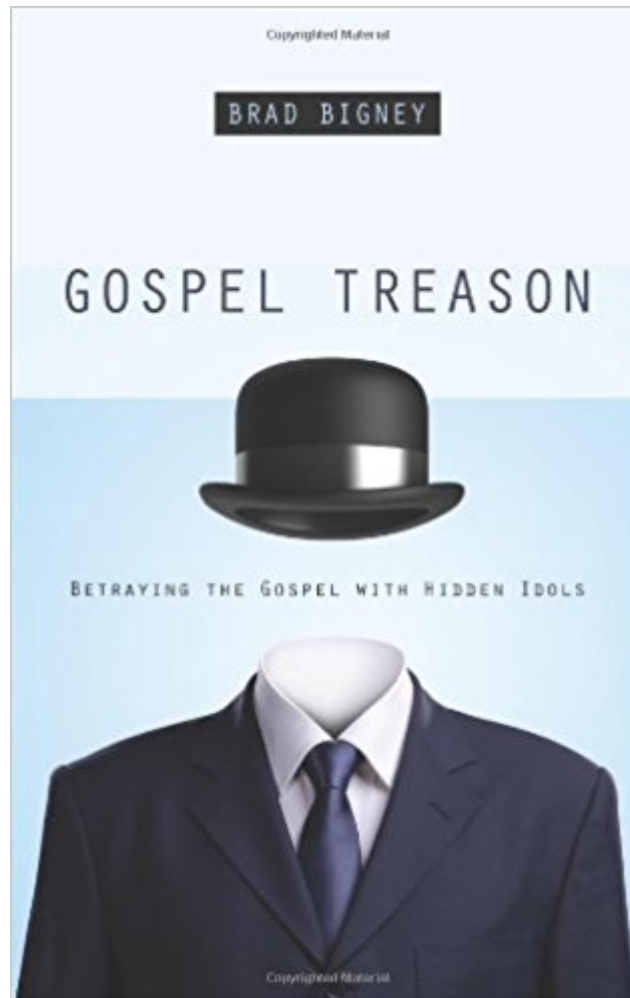




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Gospel Treason: Betraying The Gospel With Hidden Idols



Synopsis

Is it harder for you to change and grow as a Christian than it should be? Do you wonder what is holding you back? Have you ever considered that it might be idolatry? Using real-life stories and examples, Brad Bigney shows us how the idols we might not even recognize can still have devastating effects in our lives. In this transparent, honest book, he helps us to identify our idols, understand how they lead us to commit treason against the gospel¹⁵¹; and finally repent of them and root them out forever by turning to the only One who can fill our every need.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Many Christians are praying for a revival in the church. . . . Since this revival begins in the heart of each of God's people, this book can be used . . . to help bring this to pass." --Stuart Scott, Executive Director, National Center of Biblical Counseling
"Pastor-counselor Bigney has the right mix of confession of sin and failure, testimony of God's working in his own life and marriage, teaching about idols of the heart, exhortation to face one's own idols, and practical suggestions on how to change." --Randy Patten, Executive Director, National Association of Nouthetic Counselors
"A much needed book that explains and exposes heart idolatry and clearly offers the gospel as the only cure." --Jim Newheiser, Director, Institute for Biblical Counseling and Discipleship

Brad Bigney, senior pastor of Grace Fellowship Evangelical Free Church in Florence, Kentucky, is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Free Church of America. He is also a member and certified counselor of the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors and a member of the Association of Biblical Counselors.

I never thought of myself as an idol worshipper since I don't bow down to carved images of beasts or birds. Brad Bigney opened my eyes to see that idols are everywhere and my heart cranks out idols all the time. Thank you for publishing this book. It made a difference in my life. I pray that God will continue to help me smash the idols of my heart and that He will never cease to "search me to see if there is any wicked way in me." God bless!

This is a great book! I read it for a counseling class and then taught through it in the teen Sunday School class at my church. The book is very winsome, readable, and convicting. I especially appreciated Bigney's repeated reminder to focus on Christ and the gospel. As he puts it in chp. 2: "Don't obsess over your heart while ignoring your Savior. Watch out! As you discover your idols, and God turns the floodlight onto the filth of your heart, you WILL be discouraged, so you'd better look to Christ! Read the Gospels again. Study the account of the cross. Go to Galatians and read about grace, not law. Preach the gospel to yourself every day. Delight in your Savior. Glance at your heart, but gaze at Christ. Keep the main thing the main thing. Christ, the cross, the gospel-- these are the main thing. So let whatever God chooses to do in your life be an occasion for you to draw nearer to your Savior than you have ever been, so that you'll be able to say, 'That's why I need the gospel. That's why Christ died on the cross. That's why I need grace. That's why the law could never have saved me. Thank you, God, that according to Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.'" Stay at the cross as God performs his surgery in you." I so appreciate this book especially because of the author's humility, transparency, ruthlessness with sin, and ultimately his audacious confidence in the hope and joy of the gospel. My only criticism is that the book is about 60 pages longer than necessary (hence the four stars). Many of the chapters overlapped with each other extensively. Sometimes the repetition was helpful, but often it was burdensome. I condensed this thirteen chapter book into seven lessons for my class which was plenty of time to cover the book's most helpful content.

This book is a thorough review of the temptations, dangers, and consequences of idolatry in the heart. Although the book surprisingly did not give an account of the origins of the word *idolatry* or how Old Testament idolatry relates to how we talk about idolatry today, it nonetheless has a lot of helpful things to say about how the human heart constantly elevates things or people above God and looks for satisfaction in them. I found most helpful the stories of people who had been caught up with subtle idols which "flew below the

radar for some time, and were only retrospectively diagnosed as idolatry. For example, the author recounted his own idol of respect from his parishioners, while his wife battled disappointment over her unsatisfied idolatry of the perfect home. It was eye-opening to hear how their respective idols clashed to the detriment of their marriage. Only after they saw their idols as such were they able to plot a course for recovery. As the author demonstrated, one often doesn't detect his or her idols until they go unsatisfied. But the stories mentioned above showed me that conflict is an opportunity to examine one's idols and do some "idol-hunting" in one's life.

Do you long for real transformation? Have you ever heard someone say "preach the gospel to you self" but didn't know what that meant? Or maybe you heard a preacher talk about dealing with your "heart's idols" or "the sin behind the sin," but didn't get it? If so this book is for you. Careful though. You'll have to deal with your heart and the "stuff" down deep. But where this leads with the gospel is real freedom and joy that you've been lacking. Gospel Treason is a well written, pastoral, real, honest, life-giving read for any who pick it up and work through it. I hope to read this with my whole church.

The audio series was listened to several times but there is nothing like diving into this book and underlining and referencing the revelations to our hearts, souls and minds of how the enemy allows the idols of this world to control our thoughts and actions. We have to first identify what is an idol and then see how it's manifesting pain in our lives and hurting our relationships. I can't say enough about this book on how it has helped our family to be able to identify the idols we have unknowingly been worshipping. When they have been identified, we learn how to deal with life God's way with His Will being priority and not our own. Brad Bigney has filled this book with scripture from God's Word to help us understand how we have let idols creep into our lives and how we must recognize them and seek help from God, with His Mercy and His Grace. This book is by far, other than our Bible, our favorite study/reference book to help us stay on the narrow road seeking God's Will for our lives and not our idols that we want instead. God is Sovereign. We only need to trust Him and not make idols of what we think our outcome should be... This book offers encouragement to all ages at all walks of life! Great book for Bible Study groups!

This is probably one of the greatest extra-Biblical books ever written targeting spiritual growth. Brad Bigney writes in a way that is very easily readable, and he makes this book very personal. He takes

broad notions of sin and, through examples and targeted questioning, he promotes an environment for the reader to really contemplate how these sins play out specifically in their own life. My prayer life has benefitted from me really knowing how and what to pray about, and I'm much more cognizant of sinful thoughts and desires creeping in, allowing me to hit them on the spot. I am not perfect, nor have I arrived, but this book has helped me open my spiritual eyes more and improve my vertical relationship with the Lord.

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