

Series: American Idols

**The American Idol Named “Control”
James 4:13-17**

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- I. How is Life Lived Under the Idol Named “Control?”
 - A. I want you to consider this morning how puny the god named control really is.
 1. “Why, you don’t even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.” James 4:14
 - B. We may be tempted to give up.
 1. “I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all. Moreover, no man knows when his hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them.” Ecclesiastes 9:11-12
- II. God is the One Who Remains in Control.
 - A. We are to realize how puny this god is in relation to life and to the sovereignty of God.
 1. “Our God is in heaven; He does whatever pleases him.” Psalm 115:3
 2. “I know that the Lord is great and is greater than all gods.” Psalm 135:4
 - B. The most important verse in the Bible is the first one: “In the beginning God.”
- III. What Happens When We Surrender Control to God?
 - A. If we would surrender control to God, we would learn to love better.
 1. “For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.” 2 Corinthians 4:5
 - B. If we would surrender control to God, we would learn to live bolder.
 1. “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking; do not be silent. No one is going to attack you because I have many people in this city.” Acts 18:9
 - C. If we would surrender control to God, we would learn to praise bigger.
 1. “Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.” Psalm 43:5