



Jonah 2:8-9 |

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## RELATED SCRIPTURES

Job 7:16 | Ecclesiastes 1:14 | Matthew 12:38b-41 | Romans 12:1-2

## SUMMARY

Jonah is using the most intense language he can possibly think of to describe the hopelessness and meaningless of putting your hope in something other than God. He says those who “pay regard” and the NIV does a better job of translating that word because the sense behind is a “gripping” or “clinging”, those who cling to vain vanities, to false nothings, to meaningless breaths, forsake their hope in God’s steadfast love his “hesed” love. They turn away from what the Lord is providing for them.

Sometimes if we’re honest with ourselves, when we think of idols we might believe it when someone says that God is better than them, but we still believe that they provide something, they’re at least good for something. An idol of money or entertainment or work may not be better than Jesus, but it still gives you something, Jonah says NO, IT’S A MEANINGLESS BREATH. It gains you nothing but a forsaking of the love of God, Jonah’s saying from experience, don’t mess with it..

## GROUP QUESTIONS

- From the sermon, or your direct reading of Jonah 2:8-9, share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you about how God leads Jonah internally back to himself?
- How would you describe what Jonah learned about his own meaningless-breath idols?
- We know from the story that although Jonah said, “I do not cling to anything else Lord, I will sacrifice to you, what I vowed as your prophet I will follow through on,” he still was clinging something that made him despair when the Ninevites actually repented. What do you think he was clinging to? What things do you tend to cling to even in your repentance?
- Romans 12:1-2 tells us many things, but it clearly shows that we are meant to be transformed. Where in your life do you need transformation right now?
- If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of these portions of Scripture, what is that thing?