

“Second Commandment—Part 2”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with our series. The topic is the Ten Commandments. The presentation was titled “Second Commandment—Part 2.”

As I mentioned last week, the plan was for most of the Ten Commandments to have their own individual Bible study—but the topics of the First and Second Commandments both expanded into two parts.

Foundational scripture

■ Exodus 20:2—“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”

Then, the Lord proceeded to remind the children of Israel about the Ten Commandments.

Old Testament lesson = After God delivered them from Egypt, He reminded them of His expectations from them.

New Testament lesson = When God offers His bountiful grace to New Testament disciples, He still has expectations of them (Romans 6:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-10 and Titus 3:4-8).

Second Commandment

■ Exodus 20:4-6—“You shall not make for yourself a carved image (any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth); You shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God [with God mentioning the consequences for those who hate Him and love Him].”

Reminder from Part 1

In Part 1, we talked about two main ideas.

■ God is a “jealous” God.

It is the worship of idols that provokes God to jealousy. His jealousy is His expected response. His jealousy is His righteous reaction.

■ No idols made with hands.

External idols

When we talked in the previous presentation about not having idols made with hands, we listed nine sections of scriptures about the subject.

In the most recent presentation, I read two other sections of Scripture to remind the audience how making idols with hands can be called “external idols.”

- Leviticus 26:1—You shall not make idols, not a carved image, not a sacred pillar and not an engraved stone “to bow down to it.”
- Psalm 115:4—Their idols are silver and gold—the “work of men’s hands.”
- Psalm 115:5-7—Their idols have mouths, but cannot speak; have eyes, but cannot see; have ears, but cannot hear; have noses, but cannot smell; have hands, but cannot handle; and have feet, but cannot walk.

Many gods are external idols.

Internal idols

The main idea of the last presentation was to focus upon the internal idols. Internal idols are not objects made by hands. Internal idols are generally ideas and actions that are a foundation of idolatry.

In fact, the apostle Paul in the New Testament described the characteristic of covetousness as idolatry (Ephesians 5:5 and Colossians 3:5).

Lucifer coveted position and power

Do you remember Lucifer’s internal idolatry in Isaiah 14:12-14?

- “I will ascend into heaven.”
- “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.”
- “I will sit on the mount of the congregation.”
- “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.”
- “I will be like the Most High.”

Religious leaders coveting position and power

Do you remember the religious leaders when the Son of God came to be the Savior?

- Matthew 23:3—Their words and actions did not match.
- Matthew 23:4—They promoted tough expectations, but their lifestyle was a double standard.
- Matthew 23:5—Their wearing of phylacteries was a show.

- Matthew 23:6—They wanted the chief seats.
- Matthew 23:7-10—They wanted fancy titles.
- Matthew 23:11-12—They exalted themselves.
- Matthew 23:13—They wanted to be doorkeepers to the Kingdom.

Serving the living God

Notice scriptures that show the correct approach.

- 2 Corinthians 6:16—Paul taught that disciples should not be involved with idolatry, because they are to be the temple of the living God.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:9—Paul complimented the disciples, because they turned from idols to serve the living and true God.
- Matthew 20:25-28—When the Son of God categorized most professing leaders as lording it over people and as exercising authority over people, He told His disciples what He expected of them: “It shall not be so among you.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:24—The Son of God will put an end to all rule, all authority and power—and then He will deliver the Kingdom to the Father.
- 1 Corinthians 15:28—When all things are made subject to the Son of God, the Son of God will continue to be subject to the Father—that God may be all in all.