

Second Commandment Lesson 2 Part b

(Lesson 2 is in two parts [a & b]... this is part b)

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.

READ: Exo.20:4-6

1 COMMENT

This second commandment is dealing with How does God want to be worshiped.

1. The first commandment dealt with WHO?
2. God does not want aids brought in beyond what he authorized.
3. He does not even want images to represent him we do not need such.
4. This would limit God and as we know he is limitless.

Jn.4:24.

1. God is spiritual and cannot be made of a material thing.
2. There is nothing in the universe good or great enough to represent God.
3. Also this would put God on our level to make him material so we could put him in a box and take him out when we need him.

LESSON 2B: DISCUSSION:

We as people struggle with latching on to a material tradition and letting those be our God.

1. Do you remember the movie, "Cool Hand Luke?"
2. Paul Newman is driving down the road, and he has this little figure hanging from the mirror. And he is singing, "I don't care if it rains or freezes as long as I have my plastic Jesus.
3. “As long as I have my little form that stands for God with me whatever that form is everything is O.K.

But God says.

1. No, everything is not O.K.
 - a. I want spiritual worship. Jn.4:21-24 READ.
 - b. I want obedience. 2 Thess.1:7-9 READ.
 - c. I want your acknowledgment that I am everywhere, with everything.

And you cannot put me in a box and use me when you want me.
(Rev.19:6).

The real problem is mankind is still ignorant of the nature of God.

1. They still do not understand that God is spirit.
2. And the less we understand His true nature the more we must have material things in His place.
3. The irony is that God has given us the perfect image of Himself to relate to.
4. You say, "I cannot relate to spirit, I need something tangible to relate to.
5. He gave us something tangible, He sent His own Son!
6. Col.1:15 says "He is the image of the invisible God."
7. Heb.1:3 says "He is the brightness of His glory and the exact representation of His nature."
8. So if you need the tangible to latch on to something and say this is God - Look to Jesus and learn about Him.
9. That's what you need not boxes, not forms, not traditions, we need Jesus.
10. That's how we learn who God is, and what He wants of us.
11. He is the image we need - the only image!

TO SHOW US HOW RELEVANT THIS COMMANDMENT IS LET ME
GIVE YOU TWO PRINCIPLES.

1. Your image of God determines what you beget.
2. Your image of God determines what you will become.

When you think about God do you think about a God that is a lot like you?

1. A God that stays in boxes, a God that is confined by traditions.
2. What we are talking about is, what is your image of God?
3. This is a very relevant question because it is going to shape.
 - a) How you worship.
 - b) How you live.
 - c) How you think.
 - d) How you treat your family.

Our image of God is the most important thing that we think about.

1. What kind of Image of God do you have?

Our image of God determines what we will beget.

Exodus 20:5.

What does that mean?

That the second generation will suffer because of the sins of the first generation. - We all know that is true.

2. The children suffer because of the consequences of the sins of their parents.
 - a) Here is what happens.
 1. One generation becomes apostate and the second moves even farther from God.
 2. That is what we see happen often.
 3. That is what God is saying.

Material images of God always follow wrong mental images.

1. You meet a parent that has a bad image of God and his children and grandchildren are going to have all kinds of problems.
2. That is why it is so important that you pass on to your children and grandchildren the right image of God.

What kind of image do you have of God?

1. a. Do you have the image that He is full of grace that he doesn't even care about sin?

Many live like God doesn't care about sin.

If that is the image we give to our children do you think they will care about holiness?

Those children will usually sin more than you do.

Do you have the image that God is a tyrant ready to zap people and send them to hell?

READ: II Peter 3:9.

He watches us like a grandfather watches his grandchildren.

If you have an image of God as a tyrant, do you even think that your child will be in church 10 yrs. from now?

Some view God as an absent landlord that shows up on Sunday to collect the rent.

So, we all come on Sunday and give him a little money for rent and go out and do what we want until next Sunday when the rent is due.

With images of God like that how are our children and grandchildren going to care about God?

If we do not change, we will not be able to get them into a church building.

Beloved the spiritual welfare of your children and grandchildren depends on how well you manifest the only image that matters of God that being JESUS CHRIST!

The image you have of God determines what you beget.

The second principle is that your image of God determines what you will become.

If you think God is a tyrant -- you will become a legalist.

If you don't think God cares about sin - you will become a sinner.

If you think God shows up on Sunday just to collect the rent - you will become indifferent about spiritual things.

You will become like your image.

READ: Psa.115:8.

They will become as lifeless as the things they make.?

We do not need to make an image of God.

We need to be remade into the image of God.

We do not need to shape God at all but we do need to let God shape us, and fashion us into His image.

CLOSING:

Your image of God is determining what you are becoming - if that image is not Jesus Christ you are not getting closer to Him.