

GRAVEN IMAGES

TEXT: Ex. 20:4-6.

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The first commandment tells who is worship- God only.
- B. The second tells how to worship God.
- C. It has been said that this Commandment is mentioned more frequently by the other Biblical writers than any other.
- D. Let's notice three things:
 - 1. Man's Instinct For Worship.
 - 2. What The Commandment Does Not Forbid.
 - 3. What This Commandment Forbids.

BODY:

I. MAN'S INSTINCT FOR WORSHIP.

- A. Man has many God given drives, appetites and instincts.
- B. One of the strongest is man's religious instincts.
- C. The vastness of the universe makes man feel small and insignificant- Psa. 8:3-4.
- D. Greek word for man is ANTHROPOS- the upward looking one.
- E. Why do people make images?
 - 1. David said of images- Psa. 115:4-8.
 - 2. Some say the images are not sacred but only help bring people closer to God.
 - 3. God is not far away.
 - a. Matt. 18:20.
 - b. Acts 17:27.
 - 4. Some make idols because they are dead spiritually.

- a. 2 Cor. 5:7 "For we walk by faith not by sight."
- b. Lk. 24:39.
- c. Christ is the image of the invisible God- Col. 1:15.

F. What happens when man tries to put God in the form of an image?

1. He is attempting to put the infinite into the finite.
2. He is limiting God to one place.
 - a. Prov. 15:3.
 - b. Acts 17:24.
3. He is trying to visualize the invisible.
 - a. Jn. 4:24 "God is a spirit and they ..."
 - b. We don't know what God looks like- 1 Jn. 4:12.
4. Man becomes like the god he worships.
 - a. Prov. 23:7.
 - b. Man gets no better than the God He worships.
5. Man makes a fool of himself.
 - a. Ps. 50:21 ". . . Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself. . ."
 - b. God is not made in man's image, man is made in God's image- Gen. 1:26-27.
 - c. Isa. 44:12-17 describes the foolishness.

G. The New Testament and the use of images or idolatry.

1. Acts 15:20.
2. Rom. 1:22-24 a great sin.
3. 1 Cor. 5:11 we are to withdraw from those who worship idols.

4. 1 Jn. 5:21 "Little children keep yourselves from idols."
5. Covetousness is idolatry- Col. 3:5.

H. This commandment shows that man is going to worship something.

II. WHAT THIS COMMANDMENT DOES NOT FORBID.

A. It does not forbid the use of one's talent.

1. Many have the ability to sculpt, carve, paint and draw.
2. Num. 21:8-9 brass serpent.
3. The tabernacle had pictures of things of this earth and Cherubim that are not of this earth. Ex. 24-25.
4. Solomon's temple was adorned with images.
 - a. 1 Kings 6:32.
 - b. 1 Kings 7:22, 28-29.

B. The Puritans would not allow pictures of man, beasts or anything else to hang in their homes.

C. Some churches think this way.

1. They are against a cross carved into the communion table.
2. A cross on the lid of the communion trays.
3. The use of pictures on Sunday school literature.
4. Showing film strips.

D. The Catholics have removed this second commandment from some versions of their Bible.

III. WHAT THIS COMMANDMENT DOES FORBID.

A. Making, Bowing, Worshipping.

B. Not making an image but making an image for an improper purpose.

C. Bowing is forbidden.

1. Not all bowing is wrong.
2. Not wrong to bow one's head and pray to God.
3. Bowing before an idol god is forbidden.

D. Worship is Forbidden.

1. Acts 10:25-26- worshipping man is forbidden.
2. Mat. 4:10- God only.

CONCLUSION:

A. God is a jealous God.

1. What if your husband/wife is faithful but carries an old picture.
2. 2 Cor. 11:2.
3. No room for anything else.

B. Why not give yourself to God today.

C. Kneel at the cross-