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False Idols Beckon But True Path is Clear

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"The sin of idolatry or seeking another god, a false god."

The Ten Commandments are not out of date but more relevant and important all the time. There are numerous promises of blessings in the Bible for those who keep God's moral law.



Our last time together we reviewed God's first Commandment: "You shall have no other gods before Me." That is short and easy to remember. The second is longer and therefore a bit harder to recall.

"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God ... " – (Exodus 20:4,5, Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English Old Testament. J.R. Kohlenberger III).

Why does God say He's jealous? Because His chosen people got into idolatry big time while Moses was seeking God on Mount Sinai.

The sin of idolatry or seeking another god, a false god, is best represented in "the orgy of the Golden Calf." God had just brought the Children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, and now they are committing spiritual adultery against God. – (Exodus 32:1-25).

Dr. Laura says, "The Israelites, after waiting 40 days for Moses

to come down from Mount Sinai, thought he was dead or had deserted them. They fell back into old patterns by building themselves a god representation – a golden calf. Idolatry, with its physical representation of gods, was so enticing to the Israelites that the prophets had to chastise the people about it repeatedly." (L. Schlessinger, Harper Collins 1998, p.31).

What is the particular relevance of idols to our day? One idol is pornography, especially of the female body – often smuggled into our homes by Internet. This is a big temptation for emotionally needy men or women. It can become an addiction, waste a lot of time and money, set a bad example for the children, eventually harm one's marriage, make one vulnerable to spiritual attacks and cause separation from God's presence.

Another example of an idol is Astrology. Through this means people try to figure out their future by studying their "assumed" astrological sign in the heavens according to their birth date.

Webster says, "It's a pseudoscience claiming divination by the position of the planets and sun and moon." Instead of seeking their Creator and His Word, they may choose to let an Astrologer guide them to make important decisions about his or her future. For example: who to marry, where to live, where to work, what to believe.

One of the serious effects of allowing astrological teachings to direct one's life is they can bring about negative repercussions for a

life time. – (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

No, the "American Idol" TV program is not necessarily an idol, nor is a decorated Christmas tree, unless of course you bow down to worship a person or a tree. Personally I'd prefer "American Ideal" rather than use the hot term "idol."

You can think of other true idols to stay far away from. There are at least 50 Scriptures on this topic in the Bible.

Hebrew Lesson: In our study of the first Commandment we learned how to write number 1 or *Aleph*. This time we'll learn the letter *Bet*, the second letter in the Hebrew alphabet.

Numerically *Bet* means number 2 and, spiritually, it's a symbol of blessing and creation. The two-syllable word *Beit* (*Be-it*) literally means home.

To draw the *Bet*, it looks like a backwards capital "B" with the front open and a large dot called a doggie in the top. Check Psalm 119 in the KJV Bible to see the Hebrew letters. (Without the doggie the letter becomes a V.)

A good question to ask is this, "Are there any idols in my home?" If so, let's clean house physically and spiritually and call for the dump truck."

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