

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image." Exodus 20:4

A. The Command Itself: Read Exodus 20:4-6

1. Notice that there are three parts to this command:
 - a. Exodus 20:4a: "Thou shalt not _____grave images."
 - b. Exodus 20:5a: "Thou shalt not _____them."
 - c. Exodus 20:5a: "Not _____them."
2. Why are we told that it is especially important to keep this command? Exodus 20:5b, 6

B. An Old Testament Example: Read Daniel 3:1-30

1. How did Nebuchadnezzar break the second commandment? Daniel 3:1

2. What law did he break concerning his image? Daniel 3:5

3. What would be the punishment for anyone who broke this law?
Daniel 3:7, 12

4. Who were the only ones who dared not to keep this law? Daniel 3:7, 12

5. When Nebuchadnezzar, in spite of his rage and fury, offered to give them another chance to worship the image, did they do it? Daniel 3:13-18

6. What did they hope God would do for them? Daniel 3:17

7. Even if God did not do this for them, were they willing to worship the idol? Daniel 3:18

8. How did Nebuchadnezzar feel when he heard their decision? Daniel 3:19

9. What happened to the men who threw them into the furnace? Daniel 3:22

10. What happened to the three who were thrown into the furnace? Daniel 3:25

11. After this, how was Nebuchadnezzar's attitude toward God changed?
Daniel 3:28, 29

12. How were the three friends rewarded for refusing to worship an image? Daniel 3:30

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C. The Command in the New Testament:

1. What does God say about idolatry through the Apostle John in the New Testament? 1 John 5:2

2. Notice several reasons why idolatry is wrong:

- a. 2 Corinthians 4:4: Christ is the image of God. Any image would be a substitute for Christ.
- b. 2 Corinthians 5:7: The use of an image would indicate that a person is walking by sight, which is the direct opposite of walking by faith.
- c. 1 Corinthians 10:19, 20: God through Paul says that all idolatry is worship of the devil, rather than worship of God.

3. What did Jesus say is the correct way to worship God? See John 4:23, 24

D. The Command in Present-Day Life:

1. Someone has said that an idol can be manufactured by human reasoning as well as by wood or stone. Name some idols we are tempted to worship:

2. Around whom are all of these centered? (See Philippians 2:21; Romans 16:18a; 2 Corinthians 5:15; 2 Timothy 3:2a)

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Am I guilty of serving myself more than I serve God? (See Romans 1:18, 25)

2. Do I believe God enough to be able to worship Him in spirit and in truth, without the use of any physical objects? (See Hebrews 11:27)
