

“We Will Serve the LORD” (Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-6)

If you have matured enough to choose, then you have chosen to worship an idol. Just because you have never bowed down to a statue of Baal does not mean you have not been an idolater. In this series, we will look at what idolatry is, how we make and serve idols, and how God tells us we can turn from idol worship to serve Him.

Introduction

1. This is important! It is the focus of the first two of ten commandments that God gives to His own people!
2. God’s people are not exempt, they are targeted!
3. We have to make a choice. We must serve God or an idol. We cannot serve both, but we do not have the option of serving no one/thing at all! (Joshua 24:14-15; Matthew 6:24)

Questions to Answer:

1. What is idolatry?
2. How do we make idols?
3. What are the consequences of idolatry?
4. How do I turn back to the LORD?

What is Idolatry? (Romans 1:18-32; Deuteronomy 4:9-20)

- Romans 1:23-25

- It is trying to make something else into God. (creature ↔ Creator)
- It is trying to make God into something else. (truth ↔ lie)

- Both wrong. Same result. Only draw distinction because processes slightly different; manifested different ways. I can worship something as if it were God, or I can worship my picture of God, other than the way He has revealed Himself.

- Deuteronomy 4:9-20

- Man can turn anything God has created into an idol!

How Do We Make Idols? (Exodus 32:1-6)

- Something unexpected/unwanted; worry, focus on what I see instead of what God says; lack of trust
- Decide to replace God with something else to “lead”
- Take a good thing God has given and use it for a corrupted purpose
- Attribute to it the works of God
- Exalt it with kind of praise/adoration/celebration that belongs to God
- Continue to sacrifice valuable things to it
- Use its inability to morally command and judge as excuse to sin

What Are the Consequences?

- Deuteronomy 4:25-28

- Judgment/Punishment/Destruction
- Irony—God allows man to do what he wants

How Do I Turn Back to the LORD?

- Deuteronomy 4:29-31

- Seek God with all heart and soul
- Return to God and listen to Him

- May seem too simple, but problem/solution both are issues of trust ⇒ Begins with deciding to listen and obey whatever God says, without question and without reservation