



**Lecture # 9 Part 1**

**The Ten Commandments, The Laws Governing Man's  
Duty to God (Part 2): Commandment Two Concerns The  
Worship of God—Never Make Nor Worship False Gods,  
Exodus 20:4-6**

**Exodus 20:4-6 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup>“You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

<sup>5</sup> You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,

<sup>6</sup> but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

As stated, God is Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth. The Scripture emphatically declares:

**John 4:24 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup>“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship [him] in spirit and truth.”

**Romans 1:20-25 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup>“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

<sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

<sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools,

<sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

<sup>25</sup> For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. “

**1 John 5:21 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup>“Little children, guard yourselves from idols.”

**Leviticus 26:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>“You shall not make for yourselves idols, nor shall you set up for yourselves an image or a sacred pillar, nor shall you place a figured stone in your land to bow down to it; for I am the LORD your God.”



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**Deuteronomy 4:15-19 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup>“So watch yourselves carefully, since you did not see any form on the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb from the midst of the fire,  
<sup>16</sup>so that you do not act corruptly and make a graven image for yourselves in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female,  
<sup>17</sup>the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the sky,  
<sup>18</sup>the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water below the earth.  
<sup>19</sup>And *beware* not to lift up your eyes to heaven and see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, and be drawn away and worship them and serve them, those which the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.”

**Deuteronomy 11:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup>“Beware that your hearts are not deceived, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods and worship them.”

3. This commandment prohibits *covetousness*, prohibits craving after and seeking anything more than one craves after and seeks God ([Exodus 20:5](#), cp. [Col. 3:5](#)).

**Exodus 20:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup>“You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me”

**Colossians 3:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup>“Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.”

Scripture emphatically declares.....

“Covetousness...is idolatry” ([Colossians 3:5](#)).

Covetousness is craving and desiring something so much that a person makes it the primary thing in his life. The object becomes the first thing in a person’s life, the major craving, the longing desire of the person’s heart and life.

A person can covet and make an idol out of anything:

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| a. sex     | k. girlfriend |
| b. drugs   | l. boyfriend  |
| c. alcohol | m. recreation |
| d. family  | n. sports     |
| e. money   | o. business   |
| f. fame    | p. position   |
| g. power   | q. job        |



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- h. pornography
- i. ritual
- j. ceremony
- r. country
- s. crucifix or cross

A person's god or idol is that which he puts first in his life, that which he desires and craves the most, that to which he gives his life: his primary thoughts, energy, time, and money.

Note what God said about man during the last days of human history:

- a. they would be lovers of self ([2 Timothy 3:2](#))
- b. they would be lovers of pleasure ([2 Timothy 3:4](#))
- c. their god would be their stomachs ([Philippians 3:19](#))

### [2 Timothy 3:1-5 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>1</sup>“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.  
<sup>2</sup>For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,  
<sup>3</sup>unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,  
<sup>4</sup>treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,  
<sup>5</sup>holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.”

### [Philippians 3:18-19 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>18</sup>“For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are enemies of the cross of Christ,*  
<sup>19</sup>whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.”

**Thought 1.** Maxie Dunnam has a practical comment on this commandment that is well worth quoting at length:

*“God is unseen, a Spirit and Power invisible to our eyes. So, we need settings, symbols, places of worship to be vivid reminders of God. The problem comes when the symbol, the reminder, becomes a substitute, when it becomes an idol and takes the place of God.”*

*“There’s a dramatic story of this in [Numbers 21](#). In their wandering through the wilderness, the people of Israel were attacked and tortured by fiery serpents. Moses, on the instruction of God, made a bronze serpent and set it up on a pole. Those who had been bitten looked at the bronze serpent and were healed. Not much is made of that story as it is found in [Numbers 21:6-9](#), but centuries later we find that bronze serpent making another brief appearance. This time, we find King Hezekiah breaking the serpent in pieces, because the people had been burning incense to it ([2](#)*



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**Kings 18:4**. *What had happened? What Moses had used as a reminder of God's power prevailing over the poison of the serpents, bit by bit, had become a god itself.*

*"This has happened in Christian history in relation to the cross and the crucifix. That which is to be a reminder of the love of the cross, meant to help men and women in looking at it to fix their hearts and minds on the One who bled and died there, becomes regarded with superstitious reverence. The cross, or the crucifix, becomes a holy thing. The symbol is identified and confused with the reality for which it stands."*

*"The core lesson is this: whenever anyone or anything usurps the place that God should have in our lives, we're guilty of idolatry."*

*"For most of us, that would not be a graven image such as a cross or a crucifix. But how easily money becomes an idol. We allow money—how we get it and how we use it—to edge God out of the number one place in our lives."*

*"I've seen love in marriage distorted to the point that it usurps God's place in our lives. I've certainly seen love of country distorted to the point that it blinds people to God's call to justice and righteousness."*

*"The making of idols usually means making the means an end. This happens all the time in the church. I know some people who do that with the Bible. The Bible itself becomes an idol. Listen carefully to people who passionately crusade, in their words, to 'save the Bible.' Look at their lives. We can angrily wage a war to protect the inerrancy of the Bible, and appear to be righteous in the cause, and still lose our souls. That's the problem Jesus was addressing when He said, 'Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but those who do the will of My heavenly Father.'"*

*"In all sorts of ways, we have committed the sin of idolatry by making the means an end. Even in our worship, we turn the liturgy, our means of worshipping God, into an end itself, so that the means and methods of worship become more important than the worship itself. We need to even look at...our spiritual disciplines. Spiritual discipline is for the purpose of facilitating our relationship to God. We pray and worship and study Scripture, sometimes we fast, to be open to God, to cultivate Christ's presence. But to make these disciplines ends in themselves, to make them the measurement of how holy we are, is making discipline a fetish. Not only are we in danger of turning others off when we zealously exaggerate these disciplines, they become idols."*

**Thought 2.** **J. Vernon McGee** also has an excellent application on this commandment.

*"Some people may feel that this passage does not apply to us today. **Colossians 3:5** tells us that '...covetousness...is idolatry.' Anything that you give yourself to, especially in abandonment, becomes your 'god.' Many people do not worship Bacchus, the cloven-footed Greek and Roman god*



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*of wine and revelry of long ago, but they worship the bottle just the same. There are millions of alcoholics in our country right now. The liquor interests like to tell us about how much of the tax burden they carry, when actually they do not pay a fraction of the bill for the casualties they cause by their product. A lot of propaganda is being fed to this generation and large groups of people are being brainwashed. Whether or not folk recognize it, they worship the god Bacchus.”*

*“Other people worship Aphrodite, that is, the goddess of sex. Some people worship money. Anything to which you give your time, heart, and soul, becomes your God. God says that we are not to have any gods before Him.”*

### **Psalm 115:2-8 (NASB)**

**<sup>2</sup>“Why should the nations say, ‘Where, now, is their God?’**

**<sup>3</sup>But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.**

**<sup>4</sup>Their idols are silver and gold, The work of man's hands.**

**<sup>5</sup>They have mouths, but they cannot speak; They have eyes, but they cannot see;**

**<sup>6</sup>They have ears, but they cannot hear; They have noses, but they cannot smell;**

**<sup>7</sup>They have hands, but they cannot feel; They have feet, but they cannot walk; They cannot make a sound with their throat.**

**<sup>8</sup>Those who make them will become like them, Everyone who trusts in them.”**

### **Jeremiah 10:5 (NASB)**

**<sup>5</sup>“Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field are they, And they cannot speak; They must be carried, Because they cannot walk! Do not fear them, For they can do no harm, Nor can they do any good.”**