

# Westminster Larger Catechism

## Question 109-f

Halifax, 16 May 2010

**Q. 109** What are the sins forbidden in the second commandment?

**A.** The sins forbidden in the second commandment are, all devising, counseling, commanding, using, and anywise approving, any religious worship not instituted by God Himself; tolerating a false religion; the making any representation of God, of all or of any of the three persons, either inwardly in our mind, or outwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever; all worshipping of it, or God in it or by it; *the making of any representation of feigned deities, and all worship of them, or service belonging to them*; all superstitious devices, corrupting the worship of God, adding to it, or taking from it, whether invented and taken up of ourselves, or received by tradition from others, though under the title of antiquity, custom, devotion, good intent, or any other pretence whatsoever; *simony; sacrilege; all neglect, contempt, hindering, and opposing the worship and ordinances which God has appointed.*

- Note: The part in italics is our focus for this week's message.

### Introduction...

Today we come to sixth and final sermon on the things forbidden in the second commandment.

- These are summarised for us in Question 109 of the Larger Catechism.
- But this will still not quite complete our study of the second commandment.
  - We will still have Question 110 to consider in which we will look at the reasons annexed to the second commandment.
  - We will not get to that until after I return from my travels.

Today as we wrap up our study of that which is forbidden in the second commandment, we will be looking at a number of miscellaneous things that we have not covered yet.

- We will be looking at a variety of scriptures as we look at these things,
  - but
    - I want to begin with a simple reading of the commandment itself and with a reminder to you that the ten or so sermons we have had are all unpacking this commandment that has such an important and wide application to us (and to every generation of God's people).
- Please turn to Exodus 20:4-6:
  - Exodus 20:4-6: "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your

God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

This commandment expressly forbids us to make images to aid us in the worship of God.

- At the time the commandments were given, this was the chief way the nations worshipped their gods.
  - The true God who made heaven and earth made it clear that He does not accept such worship.
  - Even though worshippers may feel that images are a great help to them in connecting with God,
    - the true God requires that we worship Him only as He had commanded, not in whatever way we may believe to be most helpful.
- The principle underlying the second commandment is what we call the regulative principle of worship.
  - It is the principle that we are not to come up with our own way to worship God, but are to limit ourselves to what He has commanded and authorised.
    - Deuteronomy 12 spells this out for us. In the closing verses, it says:
      - Deut 12:29-32: When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.
    - Worship is not something we are to devise or take into our own hands.
      - It is appointed by God and carefully regulated by Him.
      - He tells us not to add anything or take anything away from what He has given us to do.
- I hope all of you understand why this is so vitally important!
  - How we approach God really has to do with the very essence of the gospel.
  - It has always been the tendency of fallen men to imagine that they can decide for themselves the best way to come before God, but this is presumptuous error.
    - We are fallen sinners!
  - In the gospel, we are told that the only way we can come to God acceptably is to come through Jesus Christ, the only Saviour.

- We have to realise that when Christ died on the cross, He was paying the penalty for sin, bearing God's judgement against sin for all His people...
  - And we are commanded turn from our sin and to come to Him for cleansing through His blood so that we can draw near to our holy God.
- Jesus is the way God has commanded for us to come.
  - The scripture teaches us that there is no other name given among men by which we may be saved.
    - People can try to approach God on other terms, but they will always fail to truly come to Him.
    - They always end up reinventing God—altering what is true about him in their own minds—
      - altering him so that he is no longer a God that is so holy that He cannot be approached by fallen human beings apart from the cleansing of Jesus Christ, the divine redeemer.
- And once we have trusted Christ, we, of all people, need to apply this principle to all our worship!
  - We, of all people, ought to know that we are not capable of deciding how to approach God, for we know what radical measures had to be taken to save us.
    - Yet, in both the Old and New Testaments, God's covenant people have often erred in this very matter...
    - And the result has been that the truth about God has invariably been distorted until eventually the very gospel has been lost by the majority of them.
      - Even today, we see that many who name the name of Christ and are baptised in His name do not approach God through the true gospel.
        - If you survey baptised people today, most of them will tell you that God accepts them because they do the best they can and because He is a loving God or something like that.
          - You will find that they do not really believe that they deserve to go to Hell.
      - In this series, I have shown you how even something as seemingly benign as writing our own songs for use in worship has led to this error.
        - In our own songs, we represent certain aspects of God's character, but we do not praise Him for His holy wrath that cuts off sinners.
          - And the result is that over the years, we no longer think of God as a God of holiness who is a consuming fire to sinners.
          - Then Christ and His death become something other than what they are—a substitutionary atonement for our sin.

- The point is that as soon as we take the matter of how we worship God into our own hands,
  - it always leads to a distortion of the truth about God.
  - And our distortions eventually lead to a rejection of the very gospel itself.
  - We are not capable of taking such a matter as how to approach our God into our own hands.
    - Once we do, it is only a matter of a few generations until we are no longer worshipping the God who is the Father of Jesus Christ, but some other god who is not really God.

And that brings me to the first violation of the second commandment I want to consider today, one that I skipped over before, namely:

**I. That the second commandment forbids the making of any representation of feigned deities, and all worship of them, or service belonging to them;**

- You can see that listed in the answer to question 109.

A. This shows us that it is a violation of the second commandment not only to make images of true God, but also images of other gods.

- Yet, in this series, I have made a distinction between first-commandment idolatry and second-commandment idolatry.
  - First-commandment idolatry involves the making of an image of a false god like Baal or Chemosh.
    - It has to do with idols of other gods.
  - Second-commandment idolatry involves the making of an image of the true God the way Aaron did when he set up the golden calf.
    - Aaron referred to the calf as Jehovah who brought you out of the land of Egypt.
      - He was not promoting the worship of another god, but the worship of the one true god by images... it was a feast to the LORD.
- The distinction between first-commandment idolatry and second-commandment idolatry is an important one.
  - But I want you to understand that the distinction is not really all that rigid because the moment you begin to worship God by images,
    - you are, in fact, distorting the truth about Him...
    - And then it is only a matter of time until you have *so* distorted the truth that you are in effect worshipping a different god.

- We do not have to concern ourselves with just when the line is crossed that you begin to worship another god.
  - Sometimes, the idolatry is clearly involving the worship of other gods,
    - at other times, it clearly involves the worship of the true God in a false way...
    - and sometimes it is quite hard to tell.
- As we saw when we studied about the interpretation of the Ten Commandments (Q. 99)
  - It is often the case that in breaking one commandment, you break others as well.
  - So it is that whenever idols are worshipped, whether they are images of the true God or of false gods,
    - it is a violation of the second commandment...
    - And, in both cases it is also a violation of the first commandment because you are supposing God to be something different than He is.

B. You can see that this is so from the history of God's people.

1. In the Old Testament, the people stopped worshipping God as He had commanded and then it was just a matter of time before they began to worship others gods.
  - Once we lose sight of the uniqueness of our holy God through false worship of Him, it will never be long before we are worshipping other gods...
    - because we will no longer be able to discern any difference in them.
    - God becomes just like the other gods, in our minds, and then we conclude that "all religions are basically the same."
2. Is this not what we see today?
  - Those who have lost sight of Christ as the only way of salvation can be found joining together in worship with Muslims and Hindus and people from every sort of religion...
    - This advocated by the World Council of Churches.
      - The unique nature of the true God becomes completely blurred for them.
        - Second-commandment idolatry has led them into first-commandments idolatry.

Now let us move along to look at the several violations of the second commandment that are mentioned at the end of the Answer to Q. 109.

- They are listed as follows:
  - *simony; sacrilege; all neglect, contempt, hindering, and opposing the worship and ordinances which God has appointed.*

## **II. Simony (pronounced either *Sim-on-ee* or *Sime-on-ee*) is the purchase of church offices.**

A. Simony takes its name from a man called Simon that we meet in Acts 8.

1. Turn to Acts 8:5-24 and I will read to you the account of what Simon did.

- Acts 8:5-24: “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city. But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God." And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! "You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. "Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. "For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity." Then Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me."”
- The great problem with Simon was that he supposed he could purchase the gift of God...
  - That instead of being called by God to be an apostle, he could simply buy the office from those who had it!
    - This sin became known as simony after Simon the Magician.
      - The history books tell us that he became the leader of a Christian cult.

2. Simony became a huge problem in the years prior to the reformation.

- In fact, it was one of the problems that exposed the need for the church to be reformed and that led to the reformation.
- This is what happened.
  - From the beginning, God appointed that those who preach the gospel were to live from the gospel (1 Cor 9:14).
    - They were to be supported by the tithes of God's people.
- However, it came about when the church fell into corruption,
  - men would sometimes be given the title of Bishop or Priest and be given financial support to serve in those offices even though they never preached—
    - seriously—there were those that never even preached once and had a full living as a bishop or priest.
    - Some of them had absolutely no interest in religion.
    - They sometimes never even met the people they were supposed to be serving.
      - It was just a position they attained that gave them a living.
- And as you can imagine, such church offices were quite coveted after.
  - So it became a rather common practice for men to purchase them as you would an investment...
    - The office would be sold to the highest bidder.
    - That is simony, and it is a wicked violation of the second commandment.

B. But how is it a violation of the second commandment?

1. It is a violation of the second commandment because the second commandment calls for men who are called by God to preach the word in the church.
  - They are to be carefully trained and then examined by the Presbytery to see if they meet what God's word requires of those who would preach.
  - And then if the Presbytery finds that they do, they are to be ordained by the laying on of hands to set them apart to their office.
    - In 1 Timothy 5:22, Timothy is warned not to lay hands on any one hastily—without careful examination.
      - In Titus 1:9, he explains that a bishop must be one who holds fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.
  - God has commanded that in our worship, the gospel should be preached by men He has called.

- The only ones who are to be ordained are those who meet the criteria that God has given to us in 1 Timothy and Titus.
    - To put someone into office because they pay a sum of money is to violate the second commandment...
      - because you are putting someone into the ministry of the word that God has not called.
      - And that means that the Word and sacraments will not be properly handled by them.
        - The worship of God's people will not be done in accordance with His commandments.
        - And worship other than God commands is a violation of the second commandment.
2. You can see how far this principle reaches!
- a. Any time the church ordains men to the ministry who are not called
    - (and no one is called if they don't meet the requirements God has given in Timothy and Titus)
      - they are in effect instituting worship that is not in accordance with what God has commanded...
        - because they are instituting preaching by those God has not called.
    - So we ought to understand that whenever
      - Men who have wrecked families are put into office, the church violates the second commandment by having preachers who are not called...
      - When women are put into office or allowed to preach the word, the preaching is not according to God's command—it is a violation of the second commandment...
      - When men who are living in sin are knowingly ordained, or men who are not sound in doctrine, it is a violation of the second commandment.
  - b. You may remember that one of the charges brought against Jeroboam when he set up the calves for Israel to worship was that he appointed those who were not Levites to serve.
    - In 1 Kings 12:31 it says:
      - 1 Kings 12:31: He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi.
    - Idolatry goes hand in hand with calling and placing into ministry those who are not scripturally qualified...



- c. Blatant simony, in which one pays to be brought into office, is just one way that persons who are not called by God come into office.
  - But in almost every case, those who are not qualified are in some way selling themselves (offering something) in order to get into the office,
    - whether money or some skill or some training that they have which has nothing to do with biblical qualifications.
  - For example, in our day,
    - it may be that a man who is not sound in doctrine is ordained because he is skilled at marketing,
      - and the church believes that is what they need.

**TRANS> Sacrilege is next on the list.**

### **III. Sacrilege is the violating or profaning of sacred or holy things.**

A. For example, if a group of young people are out camping and they decide to celebrate the Lord's Supper, this is, to some extent or another, sacrilege.

1. It is blatant sacrilege if they do this in a mocking sort of way—making fun of it—making a joke of it.
  - The Lord's Supper is a holy institution of God and so is not to be trifled with or made light of.
2. But it is also a lesser form of sacrilege for them to do it in a serious way...
  - Because God has appointed the Lord's Supper to be conducted under the oversight of the elders in the church and by a minister who is lawfully called.
  - It is an ordinance of the church, and a church is not established until there are scripturally qualified elders in place...
    - elders who give proper oversight within the congregation and a minister who has been duly ordained to administer the word and sacrament.
  - The reformers were very strong on this point,
    - even though the point is lost on many of their modern forebears.
    - We will have more to say about this when we get to Q. 176 where we are told that baptism and the Lord's Supper are to be "dispensed by ministers of the gospel, and by none other".

B. Churches can also be guilty of sacrilege when they do not handle the things of our holy God with reverence.

1. It became popular in the 60s and 70s to become overly familiar with God,
  - to come before Him in a careless and casual manner as if He were a buddy who lives next door.

- Silly skits were brought into the worship of God and inappropriate jokes were told about holy things.
  - This became a way of showing how tight you were with God and how unhindered you were in your relationship with him—
    - You knew Him so well that you could approach him on very familiar terms...
      - again, like the buddy next door.
  - As is usually the case, this was a reaction to another error in which God was not recognised as a father we can approach with confidence...
    - He had been seen as impersonal and disconnected, and this had led to a lot of problems.
      - But the reaction was an over reaction that lost sight of God’s majesty and holiness.
  - This affected our whole society...respect and honour has been lost at every level...
    - so that children show no respect their parents or teachers...
    - the elderly are not honoured...often not even given a seat in a crowded place...
    - the marriage bed is not held to be sacred...
      - Nothing is sacred—even our speech itself has become crass and vile.
2. We need to recognise that God is not like the buddy next door.
- He is a holy God who is a consuming fire.
    - We have been accepted before Him through Jesus Christ, but this in no way takes away His majesty and glory!
      - We need to come before Him with reverence and fear—joyful reverence, but reverence.
  - This is why in our public assembly, we should not slouch or behave in a disrespectful manner...
    - This is why we stand when pray.
    - We should consider how we dress when we come before Him.
      - Not that our clothes sanctify us,
        - but that when we are sanctified, it affects the way we dress and the way we carry ourselves when we are gathered to worship.
      - We are coming before the living God to worship Him!
        - We are not coming to a ball game or just to hang out.
        - We are coming to worship.

- We need to see that we are on time.
    - The story is told of an elder in the church who closed and locked the doors after worship began.
      - The next week, people were on time.
3. Sacrilege has to do with taking what is God's as our own...
- This is done in worship services when we look at the worship service as our own service... where we do what we want instead of what God commands.
  - It becomes a place of entertainment instead of an assembly for the worship of God.
  - We can almost forget that we are before His face.

C. Someone will want to know where this can be found in scripture.

1. It is all over the scripture...
- We are constantly told to come before God with reverence and to honour Him.
    - Le 26:2: You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the LORD.
    - De 10:20: "You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name.
    - Ps 89:7: God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him.
    - Ps 33:8: Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.
    - Heb 12:28: Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
  - As we saw a couple of weeks, Uzza mishandled the ark and died because of his irreverence toward that which was associated with God.
  - Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit in Acts 5 when they brought their offering and were struck down—
    - they so lacked reverence that they lied in God's presence.
  - Those in Corinth who mishandled the Lord's Supper and came without consideration or discerning of His body became sick and many even died.
  - In Malachi the Lord said:
    - A son honours *his* father, And a servant *his* master. If then I am the Father, Where *is* My honour? And if I *am* a Master, Where *is* My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' "You offer defiled food on My altar. But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.' And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, *Is it* not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, *Is it* not evil? Offer it then to your governor!

Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favourably?" Says the LORD of hosts.

2. We need to understand that scripture does not tell us the specifics of how honour is to be shown.
  - Societies develop different customs and ways of showing honour.
    - Honour has different forms in different societies,
      - One society may show honour by waiting to bow or salute until the one in authority acknowledges you;
        - in another it may be the opposite—that the one showing honour acts first.
  - Increasingly in our society, we have less and less ways to show honour to anyone—and there is a reason for that...
    - It is because we don't honour anyone!
      - When honour is there, you find visible ways to show it!
      - That is why the customary ways of showing honour are disappearing from our society...
        - We must endeavour to see our whole society reformed—and it begins with us.
  - We lose so much when we don't fear and reverence the Lord.
    - It affects our obedience.
    - It affects the way we worship—we are distracted instead of gripped.
    - We become afraid of other things because we don't see our God enthroned in majesty.
    - We lose our reason to live—we become too big in our own eyes so that our problems and our concerns overwhelm us (instead of the glory of God overwhelming us).
  - In Romans 3:18, Paul, in charging all men with sin, concludes his quote with these words:
    - Ro 3:18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."
    - We will have much more to say about this when we get to the third commandment.
      - This is one of those places I spoke about earlier where the commandments overlap...
        - Sacrilege is at heart a violation of the third commandment, but because it affects what we do in worship, it is also a violation of the second commandment.

TRANS> And now lastly, I want to look at the last violation of the second commandment that the Catechism speaks of in Q. 109:

**IV. all neglect, contempt, hindering, and opposing the worship and ordinances.**

- Because it is, as implied by the second commandment, our duty to worship God as He has commanded,
  - It is wrong for us to neglect, despise, hinder, or oppose His worship and ordinances in any way.

A. This can become a huge problem among the people of God.

- Just consider these facts:
  1. That for something like 500 years—from the time of the Judges to the time of Josiah, the Passover had not been observed according to what was written.
    - In 2 Kings 23:21-22 we are told what King Josiah did:
      - 2 Kings 23:21-22: Then the king commanded all the people, saying, "Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant." Such a Passover surely had never been held since the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah.
  2. That for 490 years, the seven year rest of the land had not been observed.
    - When Judah went into captivity, the Lord sentenced them to 70 years, but do you know why?
      - It was because the covenant people had neglected to observe the seventh year rest of the land that God had appointed seventy times...
        - For 490 years, they had not observed it, so God took them off the land for 70 years so those years could be made up.
  3. That when Jeroboam instituted worship at the altars he set up in Bethel and Dan, he also opposed the worship that God had commanded and hindered the people from participating in it.
    - Any time worship that which God has not commanded is practiced, the worship that God *has* appointed is neglected and held in contempt.
      - When Hezekiah called Israel to come back and worship God at the temple as the LORD had commanded,
        - we are told that many of the people who were invited laughed and mocked when the invitation was delivered to them.
      - When churches began to have priests who offered sacrifices, preaching declined...
        - People accustomed to ceremonies hold preaching in contempt.

- Likewise, when they bring in praise bands, preaching declines...
  - Many of you have experienced this very thing.
- And when they have dramas and skits and interviews,
  - Preaching declines even though preaching is clearly the central focus in the New Testament now that we have the good news to proclaim.
- There is contempt for the worship of God when man's way is put in place of it.
  - Those who grow accustomed to singing songs of human composition have contempt for the singing of psalms.
  - Those who have all sorts of high traditions that have been added look with contempt on those who worship God in the NT simplicity.
  - Those who give themselves over to pagan spirituality (tongues in languages that no one can understand) in worship have contempt for simple Christian worship—
    - They find it boring and they claim that there is not enough participation by the congregation.

B. In the New Testament, there is warning given about the neglect of the worship that God has appointed.

1. Jesus tells the parable of those that were invited to the wedding feast who began to make lame excuses about why they could not come.
  - And in Hebrews 10:25, we are warned not to neglect the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is.
    - It says
      - Heb 10:24-25: And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
    - Apparently, it was a problem even in those early days of the church, for he says that this neglect was “the manner of the some.”
    - It was their habit to absent themselves from the Christian Assembly.
2. I am sometimes amazed at how lightly Christians regard public worship...
  - They will think nothing of missing half the stated services, and will use the slenderest of excuses...
    - It would take much more to keep them away from work than it does to keep them away from public worship.

- “Oh, a friend invited me to dinner”
  - “My uncle was having a birthday party.”
  - or “I was too tired,” even though eight hours of work is not too tiring.
- Of course there are emergencies or times when you are sick that would cause you to miss work and worship,
    - but should you not apply at least the same standard you do to work to the worship of God?
      - Should you make the assembly to which Christ calls you less important than the hours your manager calls you to keep?
      - We need to arrange our schedules around worship rather than worship around our schedules.
        - It only happens once a week.
          - Surely, we can clear our schedules for that.
            - If we were taking a course, we would tell our family if they wanted to arrange a celebration at that time that we were sorry, but we had a class.
            - Just because they may consider the class to be a good excuse but worship a bad excuse does not mean we ought to embrace their standard.
  - We should recognise that those who hinder or oppose us from worship are sinning against God themselves...
    - Not only ought they to be worshipping Him, but it is also a sin for them to hinder His worship by others!
      - Even if they are ignorant of God, they are still sinning against Him to oppose His worship.
- C. And of course there are other ways to neglect or hold in contempt the worship of God besides actually forsaking the assembly...
1. If you murmur about going to worship Him, or murmur about worshipping Him at home,
    - you are opposing the worship of God.
      - If you love God, you will be eager to worship Him!
    - What does it say about your relationship with Him when you do not want to meet with Him at the time He has appointed?
      - He calls us into assembly each Lord’s Day.
        - The elders set the time for the meeting, but the Lord is the one who commands it and who calls us together—by His authority.

- What do you think the Lord thinks of us when we are indifferent toward His call?
    - Is He pleased with it?
      - No, it shows that you have no appreciation of Him as your creator or your redeemer.
      - You have not properly considered who He is and how worthy He is of worship.
2. And I would add that even when we are going through all the motions of worship, we can still be neglecting it.
- You can draw near with your lips while your heart is far away.
    - God sees this.
    - You need to see it too.
  - My brothers and sisters,
    - You are the one who loses out when you do not worship God with joyful zeal as He Has commanded...
      - When you want to worship in your own way instead of His way.
    - Worship is for the LORD, but it is also for us!
      - He has given us the privilege of connecting with Him in worship and it is a wonderful thing that you do not want to miss!
      - There is nothing better, nothing more fulfilling, nothing more wonderful and beautiful and engaging than coming to our God as the holy, merciful, majestic God that He is.
        - Heb 12:28: Let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.