

INTRODUCTION

In the second commandment, God forbids us trying to worship Him by any means other than what He has commanded.

- we are tempted to look at how corrupt religious groups worship, and do like they do; but that is a trap or a snare, by which the devil would take us further and further into corruption

- so we delight ourselves in the truth that our Lord Jesus Christ said, that God is a spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth

- and we follow our Lord's example, by fending off the devil's temptations with God's law, so that we worship God only how He Himself has commanded us

You recognize that as a summary of last week's message. Today we continue to hear the second commandment by beginning to look at the most infamous example in the Bible of the violation of that commandment. His history, as written for us by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is very helpful to us in recognizing the traps the devil sets, and in seeing some of the connections between the second commandment and the gospel of forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ.

And, yes, the gospel is always in view as we study God's law. God's law is good, and useful in many ways. But we don't want to learn God's law in isolation. We want to learn it in its connections to the good news that there is forgiveness of sins for sinners; that there is eternal life in Jesus Christ even for those who have broken God's commandments.

TEXT

Exodus 20:4-6

Give a brief history of Jeroboam while people are finding the place.

1 Kings 12:26-33

BODY

- I. See the Blatant Disobedience to the Second Commandment (28-30)
 - A. This history is a great help to us in understanding the second commandment
 - B. It helps us realize that, outlandish as it may seem, men really do engage in blatant disobedience to this commandment
 - C. This history helps us be sure that the second commandment is not just about worshiping false gods by making idols; it is about trying to worship the true god by making idols
 - D. Along with blatant disobedience to the second commandment, this history shows us
 - 1. what went before it, motivating it
 - 2. what came along with it
 - 3. what came after it, resulting from it

- II. See the Interaction Between a Powerful Leader and the People
 - A. The powerful man was acting for the sake of his own power
 - B. He was concerned that the practice of true, biblical religion as ordained by God would turn people's hearts away from him
 - C. But notice that the powerful man did not tell his true motivations to the people
 - D. APPLICATION God's law is not only for His own glory; it also is for our good. Here we find that the second commandment is a means of defense for us against abuse by ambitious men who would try to gain and hold power over us unjustly

III. See the Effect On the Priesthood

A. Two effects mentioned

1. the leader appointed men to be priests who were not qualified (31)
2. the leader acted as if he were a priest (32b, 33b)

B. We care about this very much because of its implications regarding two important things, one lesser and one greater

1. the less important thing: the relationship between the second commandment and the maintaining of purity in the congregation's offices: pastor and deacon
2. the more important thing: the relationship between the second commandment and maintaining the gospel of the priesthood of Jesus Christ

C. [This point only if time allows.] Disobedience to the second commandment brings unqualified men into office in the congregations

D. Disobedience to the second commandment brings in distortion in the doctrine of the priesthood of Jesus Christ

1. sinful people need a priest, a mediator between themselves and God, in order to be saved from God's wrath, and in order to be able to worship Him acceptably
2. who can be such a priest must be ordered by God; it cannot be made up by the sinful men themselves
3. in the Old Testament, God ordained that Aaron was the first high priest, then his descendants would be the only qualified priests; (even among those, any man with any defects could not be a priest)
4. in the New Covenant, God ordained that Jesus Christ is the once-and-for-all true high priest, of a different order than Aaron and his sons; He is the one truly qualified Mediator between God and men
 - a) Jesus Christ, in dying on the cross, became for us the perfectly acceptable sacrifice, offered on the perfectly holy altar, by the one perfectly qualified high priest
5. disobedience to the second commandment, as Jeroboam showed, brings with it ideas about
 - a) other men besides Jesus being priests between men and God
 - b) men not really needing a priest, but somehow being able to worship God without one

CONCLUSION

The second commandment, being God's law, of course is good in itself. But just how good it is for us, just how beneficial, may not have been very clear in our minds. But with the kind of insight the Bible provides us in the history of Jeroboam, perhaps it is becoming clear to you.

We want this congregation to be pure of corruptions, both now and all the way until the Lord Jesus comes back. We want that for the other congregations, also.

And we want to know, believe, and proclaim the truth about Jesus Christ, about salvation for sinners through faith in Him.

May the Lord help us, by attention to His commandments, to have these good things more and more.

Thad - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Acts 24:14

Dillon - Scripture Reading - Psalm 119:97-104

Alex - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - 1 Corinthians 15:56-57

Rita - Prelude

Rita - Trinity 218 (First Tune) "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" - Andrew lead

Bela - Trinity 302 "Lord of the Worlds Above"

Rita - Trinity 192 "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

To obey the second commandment, you worship how God has told you to worship,

- I. Not Obeying What Some Leader Thinks In His Heart (26-27)
- II. Not Following the Present Consensus of Influential People (28a)
- III. Not Considering What God Requires To Be Too Difficult (28c)
- IV. Not Using Any Man-Made Thing to Represent God (28-29a)
- V. Not Neglecting to Assemble in God's Temple (29-31a)
- VI. Not Through Any Priest Other Than the One God Has Appointed (31b)
- VII. Not By Holy Days That Men Invent (32a-33b)
- VIII. Not Trying to Do For Yourself What Only God's Priest Can Do For You (33b)

Rita, Andrew, Alex, would you please practice "Is He Worthy" this coming Lord's Day afternoon? Then I'll plan to use that for worship the next week or soon after.