

Evening Worship October 2, 2016

"Say No To ..." Exodus 20:3

"You shall have no other gods before Me. (Exodus 20:3 NKJ)

In the Hebrew language, the NO, to other gods here is emphatic! It is a great BIG, LOUD NO!

In the Universe in which we live, created by God, one sin is bigger, more hated, more connected to all other sins, as their ROOT than any other and that is idolatry!

The Israelites knew idolatry! They had been slaves in Egypt where practically everything was considered either to be, or to be connected to, a god! As you will remember there was the snake god, the frog god, the river god, the sun god, sky gods and storm gods, the cow or cattle gods and goddess, gods and goddesses of sex and fertility, gods of love and war and the Pharaoh, himself, and his sons were also considered gods!

Israel was saved from such a world and FORBIDDEN in the strongest terms from going back!

However they did! They worshipped, against this command:

Other gods: and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. (Judges 2:12 NKJ)

BAAL: Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him.³¹ And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him.³² Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. (1 Kings 16:30-32 NKJ)

The Queen of Heaven: "As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you!¹⁷ "But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have

done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble. (Jeremiah 44:16-17 NKJ)

How do people fall into the worship of idols?

I. They suppress the knowledge of the TRUE and LIVING GOD –

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man-- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. (Romans 1:18-23 NKJ)

1. We have done this in our own country –

A. When was the knowledge of God taken from schools?

In two landmark decisions, Engel v. Vitale (1962) (Prayer was taken out) and Abington School District v. Schempp (1963) (The Bible was removed), the US Supreme Court established what is now the current prohibition on prayer and the Bible in schools.

2. God's eternal power and Godhead, should be seen in the creation -

.²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse

"As a building requires a builder; Creation demands a Creator" John Whitcomb

However, in our modern world we followed flunking theologians rather than the True and Living God. Evolution is not science, neither is the theory of man-made global warming, both are denials of God's creative power and His rule over our world!

II. They exchange the glory of God into images -

When people deny the Creator; Scripture tells us they must replace Him with something else

²³ **and changed** (or exchanged ESV) **the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man-- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. (Romans 1: 23 NKJ)**

The idol worshippers of old, had their images and idols, just like today's idol worshippers –

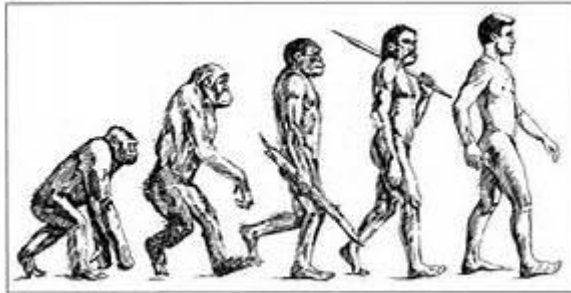


FIGURE 11-1 The ultimate icon.

Saying we came from the animals and were not created by the Creator is giving the glory (the credit) for the power of Creation to something other than God, supposedly this creative power to evolve is something the animals themselves DID, without God!

III. This exchange destroys our minds and lives, as God judges such people by letting them go –

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. ²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are

deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. (Romans 1:24-32 NKJ)

Abandoning theology, the knowledge of God, abandoning the Bible, the only source of true knowledge of God leads to dehumanizing immorality:

- *The reason we have abortion on demand*
- *The reason we have legalized homosexual marriage*
- *The reason we see MORE and MORE craziness in our society*

Is, we have abandoned God, we have replaced Him with idols, and God has judged us by giving us up to a depraved mind!

IV. How do we respond to such things? We must chose God, we must seek to know Him and make Him known –

"Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! ¹⁵ "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:14-15 NKJ)

1. *Say no to idols -*
2. *Say YES to the Living and True God and His KNOWLEDGE –*
Jeremiah 9:23-24; John 17:3
3. *Notice Joshua told the people they could NOT do this –*

See Joshua 24:16-27

How should we understand this?

- A. *Our natural tendency as sinners is to move away from God -*
Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. (Romans 8:7 NKJ)
- B. *Even the best of us, are not up to the level of commitment and devotion we think we are, remember Peter –*

Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples. (Matthew 26:35 NKJ) 1 Corinthians 10:12
We need God's strength – Ephesians 6:10 / Isaiah 40:31

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