

# THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE, OR ANY LIKENESS OF ANY THING THAT IS IN HEAVEN ABOVE, OR THAT IS IN THE EARTH BENEATH, OR THAT IS IN THE WATER UNDER THE EARTH

Exodus 20:4

## THE 2<sup>nd</sup> COMMANDMENT FORBIDS THE USE OF IMAGES OR SIMILITUDES TO WORSHIP THE TRUE GOD



Psalms 97:7 - Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols

The likeness of God is revealed in the perfect character of His Son, that we may understand what it means to be made in the likeness of the image of God, and what we may become if by constantly beholding we allow ourselves to be changed from "glory to glory."<sup>1</sup> And what is glory? Character.<sup>2</sup> Beholding Christ means studying His life as given in His Word. By beholding we become changed, morally assimilated to the One who is perfect in character.<sup>3</sup>

(The 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment teaches us how to worship) *Human beings* will rise no higher than *their* conceptions of truth, purity, and holiness. If the mind is never exalted above the level of humanity, if it is not uplifted by faith to contemplate infinite wisdom and love, *humanity* will be constantly sinking lower and lower.<sup>4</sup>

The love of God as manifested in Jesus, will lead us to the true conception of the character of God. As we behold Christ, pierced for our sins, we shall see that we cannot break the law of God and remain in his favor; we shall feel that as sinners we must lay hold of the merits of Christ and cease to sin.<sup>5</sup>

Living a pure life through faith in Christ as a personal Saviour will bring to the believer a clearer, higher conception of God.<sup>6</sup> Those who have not a knowledge of God through an acceptance of the revelation he has made of himself in Christ, will obtain only an imperfect knowledge of him in nature; and this knowledge, so far from giving elevated conceptions of God, and bringing the whole being into conformity to his will, will make men idolaters. Professing themselves to be wise, they will become fools.<sup>7</sup>

Psalms 135:15 - The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

The attempt to represent the Eternal One by material objects would lower man's conception of God. The mind, turned away from the infinite perfection of Jehovah, would be attracted to the creature rather than to the Creator. And as his conceptions of God were lowered, so would man become degraded.<sup>8</sup> Image worship is contrary to God's positive commands. The 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment is entirely opposed to such practices.<sup>9</sup> [Millions of people violate this commandment everyday by filling their minds with wrong images and pictures.](#)

It is as easy to make an idol of false doctrines and theories as to fashion an idol of wood or stone. By misrepresenting the attributes of God, Satan leads men to conceive of Him in a false character.<sup>10</sup> The law of God requires that every son and daughter of Adam shall love him supremely, and anything that separates our affections from God, and lessens our interest in eternal things, is an idol.<sup>11</sup>