

Open The Light

*For God, who commanded the light
to shine out of darkness,
hath shined in our hearts,
to give the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.*

2 Corinthians 4:6

*Character Building
In A Relationship with God*

*He that believeth on me, **as the scripture hath said**, out
of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. **John 7:38***

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Study 9

God's love for you is so strong, therefore please, do not rush through, do as much as you can each day, with prayer.

Walking in God's Law

The 2nd Commandment

Remember to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in Jesus blessed name as you start this 2nd study of God's Commandments. Don't rush through, study, and pray for God to teach you, His will. Do what you can each day and pick up where you ended the day before.

And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good? Deuteronomy 10:12, 13.

Open your bible and read Exodus 20:4-6 and Deuteronomy 5:8-10.

The second Commandment has two parts to it. Each part starts with "thou shalt not." However, they make a whole Commandment, they are not to be separated one from the other. The second part comes with the results and promise in following God's Word.

After reading the second commandment, is there something we need to know and take heed to in this Commandment? Only God through His Holy Spirit can reveal to us all things in the Name of Jesus. *Pray now before you continue this Study. Ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus Holy name, to help you as you continue the study.*

By looking at the meanings for some of the words in the first part of the second Commandment, a better understanding is opened to us. Although it is already clear, there have been misunderstandings and some Religions have gone as far as removing this command from The Ten Commandments. A misunderstanding can happen by not listening to, or by not taking in, all the words in the first part of the second Commandment.

Let's look at the words, "**graven image**", "**likeness**", and the word **idol** (although idol is not used in the second commandment), and the word "**or**".

Graven image: From H6458: A primitive root; to *carve*, whether wood or stone: - grave, hew: an idol: - carved (graven) image.

Likeness: Something portioned (that is, fashioned) out, as a shape, that is, (indefinitely) phantom, or (specifically) embodiment, or (figuratively) manifestation (of favor): - image, likeness, similitude.
(References from the Strong's Concordance)

Graven image: noun.

1. (mainly Bible) a carved image used as an idol

[3] **Grave:** verb. Word forms: graves, graving, graved, graved, graven (transitive) (archaic)

2. to cut, carve, sculpt, or engrave

Image: noun.

1. a representation **or likeness** of a person or thing, esp in sculpture
2. a person or thing **that resembles another closely; double or copy**

Image: verb.

14. to make or reflect an image of

Idol: noun.

1. **a material object**, esp. a carved image, that is worshipped as a god.
2. (Christianity, Judaism) **any being (other than the one God) to which divine honour is paid**
3. **a person who is revered, admired, or highly loved**

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Anything can be an idol as we learnt in study number 8 on the first Commandment, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Exodus 20:1-3. Yet not all idols can be a graven image. For example, our car, home, Money. Yet, anything God has created can be. Anything that takes first place in your heart before God is an idol. This is why John said “Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen. 1 John 5:21. (Little children are God’s children that walk with Him, young or old of all ages.) Note that a graven image is something graven and made into an image that someone has made. Yet a graven image is an idol. Note what has taken place in this verse. And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. Exodus 34:4. So, to say the second commandment is to do with idol worship only, is to take away the first commandment which is the Commandment that tells us not to have any other God’s before God. God gave these two commandments separately for a very good reason. The first commandment is a law not to have any other gods, (idols) before Him, God Himself. The second is, we are not to copy His creation, nor bow down to them. For God has said, “I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.” Isaiah 42:8

Likeness: noun

1. the condition of being alike; similarity
2. a painted, carved, moulded, or graphic image of a person or thing
3. an imitative appearance; semblance

Or: conjunction (coordinating)

1. **used to join alternatives** ⇒ apples or pears, apples or pears or cheese, apples, pears, or cheese
2. **used to join re-phraseings of the same thing** ⇒ to serve in the army, or rather to fight in the army, twelve, or a dozen

(References from the Strong’s Concordance, Collins on line Dictionary)

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21.

Read Isaiah 42:5-10; 48:1-18

Looking at verse 5 of chapter 42, and verse 13 of chapter 48. Who created the heavens and the earth?

What are the two things in verse 5 of chapter 42 that God gave to the people upon the earth and to them that walk therein?

In verse 8 of Isaiah 42 and 11 of Isaiah 48, what are the things the LORD will not do?

In Isaiah 42 verse 10, who are we to sing, and give praise to, “from the end of the earth”?

Remember to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus name each time you study God’s word. At the start and end of your study, pray.

Open your bible and read Exodus 20:4-6 and Deuteronomy 5:8-10.

Open your bible to Deuteronomy chapter 4 and read verses 1 to 40.

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The LORD commanded Moses to teach His statutes and judgments that the people might do them in the land they possessed.

Read

Isaiah 44:6-24; 45:17-25; 46:4, 9-13; 48:5-18,
Jeremiah 8:19; 10:10-15; 51:15-18.

Ye shall make you **no** idols **nor** graven image, **neither** rear you up a standing image, **neither** shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, **to bow down unto it**: for I am the LORD your God. Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and **reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD**. If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; [Leviticus 26:1-3](#).

This subject is about making graven images of any likeness of anything that God has made and worshipping them. So, let's look at what the synonyms for worship. This will help you understand deeper what it means to worship, and how we worship. Also look up the word worship in your own dictionary.

Synonyms for worship:-

= revere, praise, respect, honour, adore, glorify, reverence, exalt, laud, pray to, venerate, deify, adulate,
= love, adore, idolize, put on a pedestal,
= reverence, praise, love, regard, respect, honour, glory, prayer(s), devotion, homage, adulation, adoration, admiration, exaltation, glorification, deification, laudation

(References from Collins on line Dictionary)

I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. [Isaiah 42:8](#).

Remember to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus name each time you study God's word. At the start and end of your study, pray.

Take heed

A primitive root; properly to hedge about (as with thorns), that is, guard; generally to protect, attend to, etc.: - beware, be circumspect, take heed (to self), keep (-er, self), mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save (self), sure, (that lay) wait (for), watch (-man).

Verb = pay attention to, listen to, take notice of, follow, mark, mind, consider, note, regard, attend, observe, obey, bear in mind, be guided by, take to heart, give ear to

Opposites: ignore, disregard, discount, reject, overlook, neglect, shun, flout, disobey, turn a deaf ear to, be inattentive to

Noun = thought, care, mind, note, attention, regard, respect, notice, consideration, watchfulness, heedfulness

Opposites: neglect, disregard, carelessness, inattention, laxity, thoughtlessness, laxness

(References from the Strong's Concordance, Collins on line Dictionary)

If you heed someone's advice or warning, you pay attention to it and do what they suggest.

(References from the Collins on line Dictionary)

The word "heed" is used 80 times in the Bible. Look up all the supplied verses below and see how the word "heed" is applied.

[Deuteronomy 4:9, 15, 23.](#)

[Joshua 22:5.](#)

[1 Samuel 19:2.](#)

[1 Kings 2:1-4.](#)

[Psalms 39:1; 119:9.](#)

[Jeremiah 17:21.](#)

[Matthew 6:1; 16:6; 24:4-5.](#)

[Mark 13:5-6, 9, 23-33.](#)

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Luke 11:35; 21:8, 34-36.

Romans 11:21.

Galatians 5:15.

1 Timothy 1:4; 4:1, 16.

Hebrews 3:12-15.

2 Peter 1:19-21.

If you heed someone's advice or warning, you pay attention to it and do what they suggest.

(References from the Collins on line Dictionary)

We need to take heed when God says "take heed" for He is warning us. He knows all things and what is best for us and how it will lead us into danger and sin, or that it will put us on the cliffs edge where we will fall. Do you believe you should take heed and obey the warnings of God when He says, "take heed"? Why, or why not?

Read Psalms 139:4; 147:5; Jeremiah 17:9, 10; Daniel 2:22; John 21:17; 1 John 2:20.

Remember to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus name each time you study God's word. At the start and end of your study, pray.

The word lest

From H6437; properly removal; used only (in the constructive) adverbially as conjugation lest: - (lest) (peradventure), that . . . not.

Conjunction

= in case, in order to avoid, for fear that, in order to prevent. - Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. **1 Corinthians 10:12.**

(References from the Strong's Concordance, Collins on line Dictionary)

The word **lest** in the Bible is used as a warning. A warning is something which is said or written to tell people of a possible danger, problem, or some unpleasant thing that might happen.

The word "lest" is used 240 times in the Bible. Look up all the following verses below and see how the word "lest" is applied.

Genesis 3:3

Exodus 23:33

Leviticus 22:9

Deuteronomy 1:42; 7:25-26

1 Samuel 15:6

2 Samuel 1:20

Psalms 28:1

Proverbs 20:13; 26:4; 30:5-6, 8-9

Isaiah 48:5

Jeremiah 10:24

Matthew 13:29; 15:32

Luke 21:34

1 Corinthians 1:17; 8:9; 10:12

Colossians 2:8; 3:21

Hebrews 3:12-13

James 5:12

2 Peter 3:17

Revelation 16:15

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? **Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.** For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry... **1 Samuel 15:22-23a.**

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Remember to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus name each time you study God's word. At the start and end of your study, pray.

Read the following and you will see God is telling us to take heed, lest...

Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: **Lest ye corrupt yourselves**, and **make** you **a graven image**, **the similitude** of **any figure**, the **likeness** of **male** or **female**, **The likeness** of **any beast** that is **on the earth**, **the likeness** of **any winged fowl** that **flieth in the air**, **The likeness** of **any thing** that **creepeth on the ground**, **the likeness** of **any fish** that is **in the waters beneath the earth**: And **lest** thou **lift up thine eyes unto heaven**, and when thou **seest the sun**, and **the moon**, and **the stars**, **even all the host of heaven**, **shouldest be driven to worship them**, and **serve them**, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven. [Deuteronomy 4:15-19](#).

The verses you have just read give us the reason why God does not want us to make graven images or any likeness of His creation. The words, “**Lest ye corrupt yourselves**” “**Take ye therefore good heed, lest and shouldest be driven**” are used for the introduction to the why we should not make graven images or any likeness of God’s creation. If you make a graven image or make any likeness of God’s creation you have a graven image, a similitude or molten image. Remember these words “Whether therefore ... whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” [1 Corinthians 10:31](#).

If you are not to make them, should you buy them, or should you have them in your home or in your garden, even if you did not make it?

We may not bow down to the graven image, or a similitude or molten image that we have in our homes, but what are they to us in our hearts? What if they get broken by someone, how would you react? Be honest!

Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart. [Psalms 44:21](#).

God has forbidden us to make any graven image or any likeness of anything that is of His creation, “that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:” [Exodus 20:4](#), as we find in this verse 23 of chapter 4 of [Deuteronomy](#), “Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee.”

The second commandment in [exodus](#) and [Deuteronomy](#) tell us “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:**” and from [Deuteronomy 4:15-19](#), which gives us some detail of what kind of things we should not make. It all points to God’s creation. He, the Creator, the One that said, “Let there be” “and it was so.” “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good”. See [Genesis 1](#). “Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:” [Isaiah 42:5](#).

Take heed unto yourselves, **lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God**, which he made with you, and **make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee**.

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For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, **even a jealous God**. When thou shalt beget children, and children's children, and ye shall have remained long in the land, and **shall corrupt yourselves, and make a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, and shall do evil in the sight of the LORD thy God**, to provoke him to anger: I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed. And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you. And **there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.** **But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.**

When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, **even in the latter days**, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and **shalt be obedient unto his voice**; (**For the LORD thy God is a merciful God**;) **he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.** **Deuteronomy 4:23-31.**

Neither shalt thou set thee up any image; which the LORD thy God hateth. **Deuteronomy 16:22.**

I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, **neither my praise to graven images.** **Isaiah 42:8.**

Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee. **Deuteronomy 4:23.**

For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will **not** give my glory unto another. Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. **Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.** **Isaiah 48:11-13.**

At the end of each study remember to pray, asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus blessed name. Remember to pray for others and then your needs.

Remember at the start of your study time pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus blessed name. For the Holy Spirit is your teacher and guide in the Word of God.

Read Deuteronomy 7:5-6, 9, 25-26; 27:14-15, 26.

In Deuteronomy 7:5-6, 9, 25-26, what were they to do to with the groves and graven images, and why? See Matthew 7:21.

Read Deuteronomy chapter 27 verse 15 again, what is the man that maketh any graven or molten image?

And in verse 26 of chapter 27, what is he (the person) that confirmeth **not** all the words of this **Law** (meaning the Commandments and God's Word)?

Read Psalms 78:56-58 .

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In Deuteronomy Chapter 4 verse 23 it tells us that we are to “**Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee.**” It is because people will be “tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies … For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images.” **Psalms 78:56-58.** “**Neither shalt thou set thee up any image;** which the LORD thy God hateth.” **Deuteronomy 16:22.**

The second Commandment is God’s Copy Right Law, along with the consequences of breaking or keeping this law.

Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee. For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God. **Deuteronomy 4:23-24.**

Thou shalt not make 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 waters beneath the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments. **Deuteronomy 5:8-10.**

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: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. **Exodus 20:4-6.**

Consider how you would feel as you read the following.

If you made something that you put much detail into and gave it to a friend; then you asked them to take good care of it and requesting that no one is to copy it or make any likeness of it. They then went and made a similitude copy of what you gave them. Now, everyone that had seen it gave your friend the glory and praise for their handy work that they had done. But you who carefully designed and made the original got neither praise nor acknowledgement for your work or design. Most likely you would become jealous and even may become angry.

This is how God feels.

I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. **Isaiah 42:8.**

For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God. **Deuteronomy 4:24.**

Read the following verses.

Exodus 20:5; 34:13-14.

Deuteronomy 4:23-24; 5:9; 6:13-15, 24-25.

Isaiah 42:5-8.

Nahum 1:1-15.

God gave us life; without Him we would not have life; it was “he that giveth breath unto the people” **Isaiah 42:5.** Yet we, make, buy, have any kind of graven images or any likeness; of God’s creation in our homes and gardens. We even give praise to those that have made them. We even get the praise from others when, or if, we make them. Today they are so lifelike, and we really become amazed at their talent, generally without even considering God for His handiwork the original designer, our Creator God, when we give praise to those that make graven or likeness images.

Take the following examples, God had led me to experience, to answer my prayer.

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When praying regarding this very subject, I wanted to know the truth. God had been working upon my heart, I could feel Him drawing me to these two Commandments. At this point I trusted in my understanding, the very same that I was taught from a very young age, which was not in line with the answer God gave me. I was not expecting the answer to my prayer the way God ended up revealing His truth to me. I asked God to show me why we should not have graven images or any likeness of anything He had made, if the first part to the second Commandment is to be kept as it is written. Not just the ones people bowed down to, but every other kind of graven image, like molten statues of wood, rock, clay, porcelain, gold, silver, iron, bronze, or any other kind metal or materials. Like fake flowers or plants that are made of silk, plastic, or paper, or whatever they may be made of. Other things like teddy bears, dolls, stuffed animals, plastic molten people, statues, figurines, or animals and so on. The list could go on.

Example 1/. Around this time, I was helping some friends with their wedding, and we had to go to the florist for the flowers for their big day. We had walked into the florist and there were all kinds of flowers in array of colours. Among the fresh flowers there were fake manmade flowers that were sitting in a large vase on display. There were some dried flowers sitting on the shelf not that far away. While my friend was talking to the florist about bouquets and colours, two girls in their late teens had walked into the store and straight away they were taken in by the beauty of all the flowers and then touched one of the man-made flowers and this what they said, “how amazing what man can do.” It was at this point God opened my mind to his voice “this is why”. Not once did God the Creator get praise for the beautiful fresh ones that were more beautiful with the veins in the petals of velvet like texture that was soft to touch and lovely to behold, get any praise. I was saddened at that point for God. I was convicted that even the making of any likeness or similitude of God’s creation, even for decoration, was not to be made or had; as God had forbidden, “**Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God**, which he made with you, and **make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee**” Deuteronomy 4:23, as the Commandments say “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: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.” Exodus 20:4-6. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.” Psalm 19:1. We should only give praise to God for His Handiwork and not to another who have only copied God’s work. God said “I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. Isaiah 42:8. Since God will not give any praise to graven images, and we would be like Jesus, why would we give our praise to another person for the graven images they make?

That day I was so convicted that I went home and destroyed the artificial flowers I had; and I had a few arrangements that were throughout our home. I did straggle a little with it. But when you love God you do what He has shown you. “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left”. Isaiah 30:21.

You know we surrender ourselves for our loved ones. For the one you are courting, for your wife or husband, for your children, friends and even for others you may be helping, your boss or neighbour. Why do we find it a struggle to surrender to God, the one who gave us life? We need to, and must learn to, humbly lay aside self and allow the Holy Spirit to translate the word of God into conviction deep within our hearts.

Some words of encouragement for you to walk within the convictions God has convicted you in, with all your heart mind and soul.

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have

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respect unto all thy commandments. I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly. [Psalms 119:1-8](#).

Jesus pointed out the power of false teaching to destroy the appreciation and desire for truth. "No man," He said, "having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better." All the truth that has been given to the world through patriarchs and prophets shone out in new beauty in the words of Christ. But the scribes and Pharisees had no desire for the precious new wine. **Until emptied of the old traditions, customs, and practices, they had no place in mind or heart for the teachings of Christ.** They clung to the dead forms, and turned away from the living truth and the power of God. {DA 279.3}

It was this that proved the ruin of the Jews, and it will prove the ruin of many souls in our own day. Thousands are making the same mistake as did the Pharisees whom Christ reproved at Matthew's feast. Rather than give up some cherished idea, or discard some idol of opinion, many refuse the truth which **comes down from the Father of light.** They trust in self, and depend upon their own wisdom, and do not realize their spiritual poverty. They insist on being saved in some way by which they may perform some important work. When they see that there is no way of weaving self into the work, they reject the salvation provided. {DA 280.1} {EGW Desire of Ages}

Every Flower Expresses Love.--The great Master Artist calls our attention to the soulless flowers of the field, pointing out the beautiful tints and the wonderful variety of shades one flower may possess. Thus God has revealed His skill and care. Thus He would show the great love He has for every human being. {5BC 1086.8} Every flower is an expression of the love of God (Letter 24, 1899). {5BC 1086.9}

The flowers of the field, in their endless variety, are always ministering to the delight of the children of men. God Himself nourishes every root, that He may express His love to all who will be softened and subdued by the works of His hands. We need no artificial display. God's love is represented by the beautiful things of His creation. These things mean more than many suppose (Reference (Letter 84, 1900). {5BC 1087.1} E.G.W)

Example 2/. In our family we have two sons. Our older son was about 3 years old. He truly loved his teddy dog, which was a second hand-me-down, given to him by an older lady who was a long-term family friend; it had longish ears, and short shaggy hair. This teddy dog had a small hole in the start of the ear close to its head where our son would always place his finger into and this is how he carried, or should I say, dragged it around. He always had his teddy with him, yet, one night when I was putting him into bed he asked for his teddy. He remembered that he had put it down in his playhouse next to the sand pit. I told him we would get it in the morning; he said to me he was scared without having his teddy. I explained to him he would be ok; he did not need to be scared as Jesus will protect him and keep him safe. At this point I also explained to him that his teddy cannot protect him in any way as it was only a stuffed manmade toy, and that Jesus sends His angels to protect us. We had prayer together, we asked Jesus to help him to feel safe and to help him trust in Jesus. He was ok after that. The very next day I replaced his teddy with a little pillow for him to cuddle at night. We talked again about it; I had told him the pillow was only for something soft to cuddle to replace his teddy, he was fine with that, as he now was trusting in Jesus, not only to keep him safe when on his own, but always. He may not remember this, as he was three years old, but from that time on, he was always Mr. Independent. His teddy dog, he didn't even miss, as he had Jesus. This reminds me of the verse in John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." See verse 36 also, for he was free indeed, he had Jesus!

Now, I had never thought of having a teddy would be breaking one of God's Commandments. But God had shown me that, I had allowed our son to have one without a thought. I never would have thought that a little child could put such love and trust in a teddy. That my child only felt safe, whenever he was on his own, when he had his teddy with him. This is a form of worshiping; even if at the time we did not understand it or see it. "Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart." [Psalms 119:34](#). Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments." [Psalms 119:73](#).

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At this stage I had come to see where God was leading me. I had to get rid of "... 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... the similitude of any figure," that God had made. This included all the teddy bears of all kinds, statuettes, figurines, garden gnomes, dolls, toy soldiers, puppets, and animal toys. Over the years I have found carvings and other things like a figure of a house that had trees and flowers and rocks molded around it. A vase that had flowers molded onto it. "Neither shalt thou set thee up **any image**; which the LORD thy God hateth." **Deuteronomy 16:22.**

When we treasure such things, it becomes part of our heart, without even knowing it; we are worshipping it, as it means so much to us. Our son treasured his teddy with love and faith that it would make him safe, even though it could not. In **Matthew 6:21**, Jesus teaches us "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." This is why we are not to "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." **Matthew 6:19-21.** "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." **Deuteronomy 6:5.**

We must always put God first as this is the First Commandment. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. **Exodus 23:3.** In knowing this, we must also remember that anything can be an idol, a treasure we hold in our heart. Yes, even an egg flipper, or spatula, in which I owned and love very much. This egg flip was the best thing I had in my kitchen, until it went missing. I asked my kids had they seen it. My older son said he saw it in the bin a few days before. He had thought I had put it in there, so didn't question it; even though he and his cousin had been cooking that day. Somehow it fell into the bin as the bin was on the side of the bench. I really scolded my son with bitterness for his carelessness, as the bins were emptied the night before and the garbage truck had already been. God showed me that even simple

things, yes, even an egg spatula can be an idol. It was only a week or so before I remember saying I really love this spatula it really is a good one.

God showed me how bad my behaviour was, it was idol worship, because, if God was first place in my heart, I would never have acted such a way over a thing that should never have a place in my heart; because they are just things. God reminded me by the time Jesus comes, we will have made that decision on serving Him or not. If we are going to serve God, we need to know that all our possessions have to be left behind; and we will have to leave them when the time comes for us to flee or when Jesus comes to take us home. We cannot take anything with us from this earth. "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." **1 Timothy 6:7.** God is good, so loving and caring to teach us in ways that we would not think. I truly felt sick to the stomach thinking of my behaviour toward my child in whom I love very dearly. I went to him and apologized and asked for his forgiveness, in which he gave. Praise God.

Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: ... Isaiah 29:16.

The second Commandment is about not making graven images or any likeness of God's creation, also, the worshipping of them. We do not need these things in our life. They become a burden to us. We are extremely saddened when anything happens to them. We must dust them and look after them. Some of them can hinder your health like dirty teddy bears that are stuffed, and any stuffed animals or thing, in which the medical world now has discovered makes children sick with all kinds of allergies, from skin problems, breathing troubles and so on. And all this for things we should not have in the first place. We may not bow down to them, but our hearts are attached to them in some way, and there, lies the problem. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God **with all thy heart**, and **with all thy soul**, and **with all thy mind**. This is the first and great commandment." **Matthew 22:37-38.**

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world,

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the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. 1 John 2:15-17.

At the end of each study remember to pray, asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus name. Remember to pray for others and then your needs.

Remember at the start of your study time pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus name. For the Holy Spirit is your teacher and guide in the Word of God.

Another Example where God opened my eyes even more regarding what the two first Commandments really mean.

When our boys were getting closer to school age, I would let them watch the 10am schooling programs on the ABC TV station. One day I was watching it with them, and they were talking about dolls and their history. The presenter said that the word doll comes from the Greek word which means idol; an idol is something that people would worship. This caught my attention.

The Greek word for idol: eidolon.

eidōlon

i'-do-lon

From G1491; an image (that is, for worship); by implication a heathen god, or (plural) the worship of such: - idol.

el-eel'

Apparently from H408; good for nothing, by analogy vain or vanity; specifically an idol: - idol, no value, thing of nought.

We as God's children should know these things, so I did some research on ancient history and origin of dolls. (If you do the research for yourself you'll have to go past all the modern meanings for doll (madam) and look

for the ancient history of dolls). Read the following on the latest finds I found at the time of writing this study, on the internet, regarding ancient history and ancient origin of dolls.

Dolls and the Art of Ancient Greece

"Although dolls are the oldest and perhaps most beloved toys of all eras few remain from prehistoric times. It is believed that in the golden era of Greek civilization, dolls developed out of a figure that had previously been an idol or a fertility symbol. In many cases it seems that when the figure was no longer needed for worship that it was given to a child as a toy. Most experts agree that the most important criterion for labeling a figure as a toy are its movable limbs.

(<http://dollmusem.blogspot.com.au/2011/09/ancient-greece.html>)

Ancient Greeks used the term 'kore', literally little girl, and applied it to a doll. Dolls were made of rags, wood, wax, ivory, and terra cotta. Many dolls had moveable limbs that were jointed. At marriage the Greek girls dedicated their dolls to Artemis. It was believed that this dedication would assist with their fertility during marriage. If they died before marriage their dolls were buried with them. A dagus was a wax doll or puppet used in magic rites.

(<http://dollmusem.blogspot.com.au/2011/09/ancient-greece.html>)

The Ancient World and Middle Ages

Dolls in the Ancient World were usually not toys, but idols or ritual figures representing various pagan gods. Ancient metal soldiers often served the same role that the ushabti of Egypt served when they accompanied the dead to their tombs as representatives of their live servants. Bronze statuettes representing the Sardinian mercenaries of Shar dana who served in Egypt date back to approximately 1000 B.C.

(<http://dollmusem.blogspot.com.au/2011/09/ancient-egypt-rest-of-ancient-world-and.html>)

A doll is a model of a human being, often used as a toy for children. Dolls have traditionally been used in magic and religious rituals throughout the world, and traditional dolls made of materials such as clay and wood are found in the Americas, Asia, Africa and Europe. The earliest documented dolls go back to the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Greece and Rome. The

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use of dolls as toys was documented in Greece around 100 AD. They have been made as crude, rudimentary playthings as well as elaborate art. Modern doll manufacturing has its roots in Germany, going back to the 15th century. ... The earliest dolls were made from available materials such as clay, stone, wood, bone, ivory, leather, wax, etc. (Wikipedia)

A doll is not simply an impersonal play object. It becomes the child's natural and trustworthy guide in daily life. Children become attached to their dolls and share with them their deepest wishes, sorrows, and joys. A doll is given a name and an identity of its own.
[\(www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Dolls.aspx\)](http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Dolls.aspx)

My son found safety in his teddy dog. It became more to him than I could have ever realized. His heart was becoming deeply attached to a stuffed rag toy, in such a way that it gave him a sense of peace and safety, all in something that could not do anything for him in any way.

God does not want us to have any graven image or any likeness of his creation, as He knows where it leads. That is why God stops us where it would begin. We are told **not to make, lest**. The making of them or having them is the start of the worshiping of them in any form. God said not to make them. We are to keep our hearts with Him, our Creator.

Please Re-read and study through **with prayer** Exodus20:4-6; Deuteronomy 4:12-31; 5:8-10

But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. **They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.** Psalm 115:3-8.

We allow our children to deeply experience this at such an early age. It is when the children are young Satan likes to win their hearts. Like a lion, seeking, hiding where he can't be seen until it is too late.

Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth **thee**. Nehemiah 9:6.

Read the following verses.

Psalm 33:1-22; 136:1-9; 139:14, 17-18, 23-24; 147:1-20

I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded. ... For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. Isaiah 45:12, 18.

Where should our praise go or who should it be given and why?

At the end of each study remember to pray, asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus blessed name. Remember to pray for others and then your needs.

Remember at the start of your study time pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus blessed name. For the Holy Spirit teachers and guides you in the Word of God.

Read Jeremiah 10:1-15

What is God telling us again here? See verses 10 to 13.

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God is telling us He is God; He is the creator; all things are made by His power and wisdom. Many times, throughout the Bible, wherever graven images or likeness or similitude of God's creation is talked about, as you have been reading over the last few days, God also is reminding us of who made the original and that He is God.

For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. [Acts 17:28-29](#).

Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God. [Leviticus 19:4](#).

Read the following verses.

[Leviticus 26:1-4](#).

Notice the promise in verses 3 and 4 of Leviticus 26. When we keep the Law of God with all our heart, mind, and soul there is always promise. Read [Deuteronomy 11:13-19](#).

What is not allowed to be made and what can't we do? See verse 1

Why?

Notice that idols and graven images are separate from each other. This is because God knew idols can be made from anything such as, in our time today, cars, home, clothing, computer, mobile, or any living thing, as an example; anything or anyone (meaning it could even be a living animal or person. Some places around the world have rats, pigs, cow and so on, as idols. Hollywood for instance is holly wood for the people others worship, idols for actors and singers which TV shows are named after and people idolize, are just some examples) and graven images are just that, graven images; they are separate entities and nonliving. Read [Leviticus 26:30](#); [2 Chronicles 34:1-7](#).

However, graven images can be made into and usually do become idols, that mean something to us in our hearts. In [Exodus 20:4-6](#) and [Deuteronomy 5:8-10](#), we are told NOT to make them, then we are told not to bow down to them. As you know the first Commandment "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" includes idols. The things people, love and hold dear in their heart, reverence, worship and praise above God Himself. "For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens." [Psalms 96:5](#). "For all the gods of the people are idols: but the LORD made the heavens." [1 Chronicles 16:26](#). The second Commandment also covers idol worship when the graven image is worshiped. "Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made:" [Isaiah 2:8](#). "They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in **graven images**, that say to the **molten images**, Ye are our gods." [Isaiah 42:17](#). "What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols? Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it." [Habakkuk 2:18-19](#). "Cursed be the man that maketh any **graven or molten image, an abomination unto the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman**, and putteth it in a secret place. ..." [Deuteronomy 27:15](#). Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing

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images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands. [Micah 5:13.](#)

Notice that graven and molten images are classed as the same thing, images of God's Creation. "Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing?" [Isaiah 44:10.](#)

Read also,

[Isaiah 2:17-18; 45:18-25; 48:3-5.](#)

[Jeremiah 10:14-15; 51:15-18.](#)

Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess. [Deuteronomy 5:32-33.](#)

Remember at the start of your study time pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus Holy name. For the Holy Spirit is your teacher and guide in the Word of God.

What is God's way for us to get rid of graven images and idols? See the following verses.

[Deuteronomy 7:5-6.](#)

[2 Chronicles 31:1.](#)

[Micah 1:7; 5:12-15.](#)

[Exodus 20:4-6.](#)

[Deuteronomy 4:23-24; 5:8-10; 6:14-15.](#)

But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: [Exodus 34:13-14.](#)

He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? [Micah 6:8.](#)

Neither shalt thou set thee up any image; which the LORD thy God hateth. [Deuteronomy 16:22.](#)

Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. [Isaiah 48:17.](#)

Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no saviour beside me. [Hosea 13:4.](#)

[Read 2 Kings 22:1-2, 17; 23:3-8, 14, 24-25; 2 Chronicles 34:1-33.](#)

Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: ... [Isaiah 29:16.](#)

Remember at the start of your study time pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus blessed name. For the Holy Spirit is your teacher and guide in the Word of God.

Why?

Read the following verses.

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Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith ... What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols? Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it. But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him. **Habakkuk 2:4, 18-20.**

And the LORD hath given a commandment concerning thee, that no more of thy name be sown: out of the house of thy gods will I cut off the graven image and the molten image: I will make thy grave; for thou art vile.
Nahum 1:14.

To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen. [Romans 16:27](#).

Pray for an extra blessing of the Holy Spirit to be poured out upon you as you continue to read.

It is so important to know the truth and not allow ourselves to be deceived. Luke 16:10 reads “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.” Luke 16:10. With what we are learning about in these Open the Light studies, regarding doing the will of God, for His will be done in us, as we give our life to Him, along with not making graven images nor any likeness of God’s creation, and not worshipping nor bowing down to them, nor holding them in our hearts; how is Luke 16:10, helpful to us? By applying what we have learned in our life, how will it help us with the following reading from the Bible in Revelation chapter 13 verses 11 to 18? Read with prayer, and then answer the questions.

In the end time events, before Jesus comes the second time, we will all be tried regarding in whom we will serve and worship, even to our death; Who will we put first, ourselves, others, or God?

Remember Solomon? He was the wisest man who had ever lived, what happened to him? Read 1 Kings 11:1-10.

“The LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for **surely** they will turn away your heart after their gods:” 1 Kings 11:2. God told His people not to marry them. Them, as in women that do not follow God from their heart, that were from ungodly nations. “Ye shall not go in to them” this is the term God uses for the marriage act, were a man and a woman come together and the two become one.

Example “So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.” **Ruth 4:13.**

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“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh”. [Genesis 2:24](#).

Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images. ... Thou shalt **make no covenant with them**, nor with their gods. They shall not dwell in thy land, **lest they make thee sin against me**: for if thou serve their gods, **it will surely** be a snare unto thee. [Exodus 23:24, 32-33](#).

Solomon did not obey God in this and as God said, “for **surely** they will turn away your heart after their gods:” And that’s exactly what happened. If Solomon fell in the manner of worshiping other gods, it can happen to us.

Notice the word “**surely**” this is the same word God used to warn Adam and Eve about “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” Read Genesis 2:16-17 then read 3:2-4 and notice the word **lest**. These are strong words of warning, words we should heed to and take note to obey. Read all of Genesis 3 and see what happened.

And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and **he died**. [Genesis 5:5](#).

Read Deuteronomy 13:4-11, 18.

Looking at the timeline of the lives of King Josiah, Daniel/Belteshazzar, Hananiah/Shadrach, Mishael/Meshach, and Azariah/Abednego, we will learn some important lessons.

Study 2 Kings chapters 22 and 23; Daniel chapters 1, 3, and 6.

King Josiah lived 40 years. 649-609BC

Daniel lived 92 years 622-530BC.

Daniel at the age of 17 years was captured 605BC, along with his friends. Daniel was 13 years old when King Josiah died.

He had 4 years under the wicked King Jehoahaz.

Daniel's parents were raised, married, and had children all in the reign of King Josiah.

Daniel had 13 years knowing peace in the LORD, and 4 years seeing the difference between a Godly King walking in the LORD, and an ungodly King walking in wickedness, not with God.

This gave Daniel the insight of the wickedness of man and the ways of God. Which helped him make the decision to walk in the ways of the LORD.

Daniel and his friends were all raised under King Josiah, which, as you know, did that was right in the sight of the LORD.

The Passover was observed like no other since the days of the Judges of Israel.

Idolatry, images, and all abominations were put away, that the law of God may be performed that were written in the book that was found in the House of the LORD.

Daniel and his friends had the LORD and His ways in their hearts because of the witness of King Josiah and their parents.

This was an important lesson, so much so, that they purposed in their hearts to walk in the ways of the LORD our GOD, just as King Josiah had done.

It was from an early age they became faithful in the little things, that when the test came to them, they all stood fast in the Word of God.

Daniel and his friends stayed faithful and true, keeping the Word of God throughout their lives.

Sadly, King Solomon turned from walking with God. Why? Because he married beautiful women that worshipped other gods. Which led him to follow the gods of his wives, and not the Living God that gave him so much, including his wisdom. He trusted himself in the end, relying on his own wisdom, not the wisdom from God. We know this because we know God does not go against His own law or Word. See Malachi 3:6a and note Ecclesiastes 3:14; Matthew 5:18.

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by

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inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” [2 Timothy 3:14-17](#). “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.” [Romans 12:19](#).

He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? [Micah 6:8](#).

When God gives us warnings, they are sure and true. We have the Word of God that we may know the love of God and keep His ways, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” 1 John 5:3. However when we don’t keep the way of the Lord and heed to His warnings, we will fall into the hands of the one He is trying to protect us from. God has given us warnings because He knows the end from the beginning, and He knows what way is best for us. “**Remember** the former things of old: for **I am God**, and there is none else; **I am God**, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, **My counsel shall stand**, and I will do all my pleasure.” Isaiah 46:9-10. His thoughts toward us are for eternity with Him “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” Jeremiah 29:11. Knowing this, why would we walk any other way but in the way of our Lord God? Is pleasing others or ourselves more important than pleasing God? Remember Jesus said, “And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.” Luke 16:15.

Our time on earth now and those that live in the last days, regarding Eternal life, will come down to whom we worship. Whether it is after the deception of Satan and worship gods/idols of this world or whether you worship and obey The Creator God of Heaven and Earth.

For thou, LORD, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods. Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked. **Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.** Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. **Psalms 97:9-12.**

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen. [Revelation 1:25](#).

Remember at the start of your study time pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus blessed name. For the Holy Spirit is your teacher and guide in the Word of God.

Ordered by God

There are some graven images used in the Old Testament that God ordered to be made and all but one, were made for the Sanctuary, the House of God. These were given to Moses in his time, and to David and Solomon in their time. See Exodus 25:9,40; 26:30; 27:8; Numbers 8:4; 14:11; 1 Chronicles 28:10-19-21; 29:1-2.

Write down the following verses below.

Exodus 25:9, 40

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Numbers 8:4

1 Chronicles 28:10, 11, 19

These graven images that were made for The Sanctuary, like the two cherubims on The Ark, were made for the Sanctuary only. The graven image that was not in the Sanctuary which God ordered Moses to make, was the serpent made of brass that was put on a pole. This was done when the Israelites had been bitten by the fiery serpents. Each time these were instructed by God the Creator. They were all “the figures of the true” of Heavenly things and examples of the gift in Christ Jesus. (Hebrews 9:23-24-26, see also Hebrews 8:4-5)

There were pictures also ordered for the Sanctuary; but pictures are not graven images. Verses 16 to 18 of Deuteronomy 4 are clear that it is talking about “graven images or the similitude of any figure”. Also see Leviticus 26:1; Deuteronomy 27:15; Isaiah 48:5. However, pictures can be used as idols, or of idols. Also, people receive praise for their work in the copying of God’s Creation and not to God, for their art work or photography.

Meaning of cherubims:- Of uncertain derivation; a cherub or imaginary figure: - cherub, [plural] cherubims.
(References from the Strong’s Concordance)

In the following lessons we will look at the two cherubims on The Ark and the serpent made of brass that was put on a pole. Open your Bible to Exodus 25 and *Pray for the blessing of the Holy Spirit's guidance to be upon you* before reading verses 1 to 22.

Why did God instruct Moses to make the Sanctuary and the Ark? See verse 8 for the Sanctuary and verse 22 for the Ark that has the cherubims on it.

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By whose instructions was the making of the Ark with the cherubims on it given and according to what? See verses 1 and 9 of Exodus 25.

Read verse 9 again, does God say that all the instruments are to be made after the pattern?

Read Exodus 31:1-11. Who gave the wisdom, understanding, and knowledge to do all workmanship to construct the Sanctuary and its furniture?

Pray again for the Holy Spirit's guidance before reading Hebrews chapters 8, 9 and 10.

The Ark was in the Most Holy Place. See Exodus 26:33-34. The Sanctuary and The Holy Place made with hands were the figures of the true that is in heaven. The Heavenly Sanctuary is where Jesus is now, in the Most Holy Place, in the presence of God. See Exodus 26:33-34 again, then read Hebrews 9:23-28.

God's plan for us is to be with Him for eternity. The Ten Commandments are for us, to guide us, to be as He would have us be (remember the potter and the clay). The Commandment given for us not to make graven images or any likeness of His creation is so we are not tempted, lest we should worship them and have other gods before Him; taking our mind from our Heavenly Father and giving glory to the man and not to the One who made us and gave us life. It is so easy to give glory and praise to man (a form of worship) when in fact it is God that all praise and glory should be given. Not only because He's the Creator; He is also the one that has given us wisdom, understanding and knowledge; so, we do not own it in any way. We should always be careful when praising man, as the praises that are given to man, regardless of the reasons that the praise is given, we can forget God in doing so. Pride, along with buildup of self and greatness can fill the heart of man in the giving of praise to man. And regarding praising man for making a copy of God's work and creation should never be done. "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." *Isaiah 42:8.*

Read Psalms 145:1-21. David's Psalms of praise to God.

God is not bound by His Law; for He is God, Holy, Pure, Just and Good. "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he." *Deuteronomy 32:4.* "Therefore hearken unto me, ye men of understanding: **far be it from God, that he should do wickedness; and from the Almighty, that he should commit iniquity.** *Job 34:10.* "Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?" *Job 4:17.* God set The Laws for us, as sin fell on us all. We need the truth to make us free from sins and Satan's wickedness. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." *John 8:32.* Jesus prayed for those that love God, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.** *John 17:15-17.* "... if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil,

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who are taken captive by him at his will. **2 Timothy 2:25-26. And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.** **Isaiah 54:13.**

If God was bound to His Law we would simply not exist. “And God said, **Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:** and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. **So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.** And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” **Genesis 1:26-28.** “Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for **in the image of God made he man.**” **Genesis 9:6.** “... The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,” **Exodus 34:6.**

For God to punish Satan and those that followed in his ways; there must be death. It is God that lays the punishment upon the wicked. In order to do this, **He must but them to death and destroy sin.** “And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; ...” **Isaiah 13:11.** “... for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.” **Romans 12:19.** “The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.” **Psalm 145:20.** It is not our place to take vengeance, for God said, “Thou shalt not kill.” **Exodus 20:13.** and remember we are told to do good to our enemy. ”Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. **Romans 12:19-21.** Therefore, if God had to be bound to His own laws in the understanding of man, we would never be able to rid sin. And in time, due to the wickedness of this world and the hearts of wicked man, we will all eventually be wiped out by the wickedness of the hearts of man. God gave us an example of the true Sanctuary to help us understand. He could not let the true come down

to this earth because the true would end up defiled by sin. Therefore, the best option was to give figures of the true the help us see and understand the true. Yet outside of this there was no other command given to make a graven images. Only in the examples for us to see the true.

We will cover more on the sixth Commandment in lesson 12, as all Ten of God's Commandments are extremely important for us to understand.

Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein. **Hosea 14:9.**

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. **Proverbs 30:5.**

Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. **Romans 7:12.**

And I that am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast. I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets. **Hosea 12:9, 10.**

O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; **thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.** **Isaiah 25:1.**

Living Angels Beside Heavenly Ark.--The ark of the earthly sanctuary was the pattern of the true ark in heaven. There, beside the heavenly ark, stand living angels, each with one wing overshadowing the mercy-seat, and stretching forth on high, while the other wings are folded over their forms in token of reverence and humility (ST March 21, 1911). {1BC 1107.6} {1SP 272.1} 1SP - The Spirit of Prophecy Volume One (1870) E.G.W

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Remember at the start of your study time pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus name. Pray for the Holy Spirit, for He is your teacher and guide in the Word of God through Christ Jesus.

The earthly Ark of God with the two cherubims, is in no way of itself, just like any graven images, has neither power to save, nor able to help us in any way. Look up and read 1 Samuel chapter 4 verses 1-11.

What was the plan of elders of Israel and what did they believe it would do for them? See verse 3.

Please read 1 Samuel chapters 4 to 7:1, as you will see that the ark of itself has no power, but by the hand of the LORD only, did the cursing and blessings come from. The elders of Israel treated The Ark of God more like a good luck charm, having trust in an object which is a form of worship, instead of turning to God for His guidance; they relied on their own ways to deal with a bad situation; they did their own will, not God's. The Philistines in the end treated their spoil of war as bad luck. The Israelites, that should have known better, and the Philistines really both were thinking in the same way. However, the Philistines came to believe that the curses came from the hand of the LORD. They sent the Ark of God back with a trespass offering, in their pagan thinking of what would make a good trespass offering to the LORD. The Philistines, in the end, believed more in the power of God then what the Israelites did.

The Ark of God in the earthly sanctuary was God's dwelling place, a place for Him to abide with His people. Look up and read Leviticus 16:2; 1 Samuel 4:4; 2 Samuel 6:2; Exodus 29:43; 40:1-3, 20-21, 34-38; 1 Kings 8:10 and 11; 2 Chronicles 5:14.

Conclusion: the cherubims nor the Ark were **not** made for us to worship in any way and the making of them were **not permission for us to make graven images for ourselves**. They were only made under the instruction of God the Creator to represent the pattern of the true ark in heaven. Where living angels, stand beside the heavenly ark. Each having one wing stretched forth on high and overshadowing the mercy-seat. Having the other wing folded over their forms in token of humility and reverence to God. (Quoting E.G.W from the above reference, Living Angels Beside Heavenly Ark)

Remember at the end of your studies pray and ask God to help you think on these things that He has given to us for our learning.

Remember at the start of your study time pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus blessed name. For the Holy Spirit is your teacher and guide in the Word of God through Christ Jesus.

The serpent on the pole

Open your Bible to Numbers 21 and read verses 4 to 9.

The following reading is from Patriarchs and Prophets, pages 428 to 432. Written by, Ellen G. White (EGW). These words explain so well the meaning of the brazen serpent.

(As they (the children of Israel) continued their journey toward the south, their route lay through a hot, sandy valley, destitute of shade or vegetation. The way seemed long and difficult, and they suffered from weariness and thirst. Again they failed to endure the test of their faith and patience. By continually dwelling on the dark side of their experiences, they separated themselves farther and farther from God. They lost sight of the fact that but for their murmuring when the water ceased at Kadesh, they would have been spared the journey around Edom. God had purposed better things for them. Their hearts should have been filled with gratitude to Him that He had punished their sin so lightly. But instead of this, they flattered themselves that if God and Moses had not interfered, they might now have been in possession of the Promised Land. After bringing trouble

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upon themselves, making their lot altogether harder than God designed, they charged all their misfortunes upon Him. Thus they cherished bitter thoughts concerning His dealings with them, and finally they became discontented with everything. Egypt looked brighter and more desirable than liberty and the land to which God was leading them. {PP 428.1}

As the Israelites indulged the spirit of discontent, they were disposed to find fault even with their blessings. "And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread." {PP 428.2}

Moses faithfully set before the people their great sin. It was God's power alone that had preserved them in "that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, (Page 429) and drought, where there was no water." Deuteronomy 8:15. Every day of their travels they had been kept by a miracle of divine mercy. In all the way of God's leading they had found water to refresh the thirsty, bread from heaven to satisfy their hunger, and peace and safety under the shadowy cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. Angels had ministered to them as they climbed the rocky heights or threaded the rugged paths of the wilderness. Notwithstanding the hardships they had endured, there was not a feeble one in all their ranks. Their feet had not swollen in their long journeys, neither had their clothes grown old. God had subdued before them the fierce beasts of prey and the venomous reptiles of the forest and the desert. If with all these tokens of His love the people still continued to complain, the Lord would withdraw His protection until they should be led to appreciate His merciful care, and return to Him with repentance and humiliation. {PP 428.3}

Because they had been shielded by divine power they had not realized the countless dangers by which they were continually surrounded. In their ingratitude and unbelief they had anticipated death, and now the Lord permitted death to come upon them. The poisonous serpents that infested the wilderness were called fiery serpents, on account of the terrible effects produced by their sting, it causing violent inflammation and speedy death. As the protecting hand of God was removed from Israel, great numbers of the people were attacked by these venomous creatures. {PP 429.1}

Now there was terror and confusion throughout the encampment. In almost every tent were the dying or the dead. None were secure. Often the silence

of night was broken by piercing cries that told of fresh victims. All were busy in ministering to the sufferers, or with agonizing care endeavoring to protect those who were not yet stricken. No murmuring now escaped their lips. When compared with the present suffering, their former difficulties and trials seemed unworthy of a thought. {PP 429.2}

The people now humbled themselves before God. They came to Moses with their confessions and entreaties. "We have sinned," they said, "for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee." Only a little before, they had accused him of being their worst enemy, the cause of all their distress and afflictions. But even when the words were upon their lips, they knew that the charge was false; and as soon as real trouble came they fled to (Page 430) him as the only one who could intercede with God for them. "Pray unto the Lord," was their cry, "that He take away the serpents from us." {PP 429.3}

Moses was divinely commanded to make a serpent of brass resembling the living ones, and to elevate it among the people. To this, all who had been bitten were to look, and they would find relief. He did so, and the joyful news was sounded throughout the encampment that all who had been bitten might look upon the brazen serpent and live. Many had already died, and when Moses raised the serpent upon the pole, some would not believe that merely gazing upon that metallic image would heal them; these perished in their unbelief. Yet there were many who had faith in the provision which God had made. Fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters were anxiously engaged in helping their suffering, dying friends to fix their languid eyes upon the serpent. If these, though faint and dying, could only once look, they were perfectly restored. {PP 430.1}

The people well knew that there was no power in the serpent of brass to cause such a change in those who looked upon it. The healing virtue was from God alone. In His wisdom He chose this way of displaying His power. By this simple means the people were made to realize that this affliction had been brought upon them by their sins. They were also assured that while obeying God they had no reason to fear, for He would preserve them. {PP 430.2}

The lifting up of the brazen serpent was to teach Israel an important lesson. They could not save themselves from the fatal effect of the poison in their wounds. God alone was able to heal them. Yet they were required to show

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their faith in the provision which He had made. They must look in order to live. It was their faith that was acceptable with God, and by looking upon the serpent their faith was shown. They knew that there was no virtue in the serpent itself, but it was a symbol of Christ; and the necessity of faith in His merits was thus presented to their minds. Heretofore many had brought their offerings to God, and had felt that in so doing they made ample atonement for their sins. **They did not rely upon the Redeemer to come, of whom these offerings were only a type.** The Lord would now teach them that their sacrifices, in themselves, had no more power or virtue than the serpent of brass, but were, like that, to lead their minds to Christ, the great sin offering. (Page 431) {PP 430.3}

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness," even so was the Son of man "lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:14, 15. **All who have ever lived upon the earth have felt the deadly sting of "that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan."** Revelation 12:9. The fatal effects of sin can be removed only by the provision that God has made. The Israelites saved their lives by looking upon the uplifted serpent. **That look implied faith.** They lived because they believed God's word, and trusted in the means provided for their recovery. So the sinner may look to Christ, and live. He receives pardon through faith in the atoning sacrifice. **Unlike the inert and lifeless symbol, Christ has power and virtue in Himself to heal the repenting sinner.** {PP 431.1}

While the sinner cannot save himself, he still has something to do to secure salvation. "Him that cometh to Me," says Christ, "I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37. But we must come to Him; and when we repent of our sins, we must believe that He accepts and pardons us. **Faith is the gift of God, but the power to exercise it is ours.** Faith is the hand by which the soul takes hold upon the divine offers of grace and mercy. {PP 431.2}

Nothing but the righteousness of Christ can entitle us to one of the blessings of the covenant of grace. There are many who have long desired and tried to obtain these blessings, but have not received them, because they have cherished the idea that they could do something to make themselves worthy of them. They have not looked away from self, believing that Jesus is an all-sufficient Saviour. **We must not think that our own merits will save us; Christ is our only hope of salvation.** "For there is none other name under

heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. {PP 431.3}

When we trust God fully, when we rely upon the merits of Jesus as a sin-pardoning Saviour, we shall receive all the help that we can desire. Let none look to self, as though they had power to save themselves. **Jesus died for us because we were helpless to do this. In Him is our hope, our justification, our righteousness.** When we see our sinfulness we should not despond and fear that we have no Saviour, or that He has no thoughts of mercy toward us. **At this very time He is inviting us to come to Him in our helplessness and be saved.** (Page 432) {PP 431.4}

Many of the Israelites saw no help in the remedy which Heaven had appointed. The dead and dying were all around them, and they knew that, without divine aid, their own fate was certain; but they continued to lament their wounds, their pains, their sure death, until their strength was gone, and their eyes were glazed, when they might have had instant healing. If we are conscious of our needs, we should not devote all our powers to mourning over them. While we realize our helpless condition without Christ, we are not to yield to discouragement, but **rely upon the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour.** Look and live. Jesus has pledged His word; He will save all who come unto Him. Though millions who need to be healed will reject His offered mercy, not one who trusts in His merits will be left to perish. {PP 432.1}

Many are unwilling to accept of Christ until the whole mystery of the plan of salvation shall be made plain to them. They refuse the look of faith, although they see that thousands have looked, and have felt the efficacy of looking, to the cross of Christ. Many wander in the mazes of philosophy, in search of reasons and evidence which they will never find, while they reject the evidence which God has been pleased to give. They refuse to walk in the light of the Sun of Righteousness, until the reason of its shining shall be explained. All who persist in this course will fail to come to a knowledge of the truth. God will never remove every occasion for doubt. He gives sufficient evidence on which to base faith, and if this is not accepted, the mind is left in darkness. If those who were bitten by the serpents had stopped to doubt and question before they would consent to look, they would have perished. **It is our duty, first, to look; and the look of faith will give us life.** {PP 432.2}) (EGW)

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Hebrews 12:2, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Remember at the start of your study time pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus blessed name. For the Holy Spirit is your teacher and guide in the Word of God.

There are three places in the Bible regarding the bronze serpent.

First

The making of it and those that looked upon the serpent on the pole were healed. See Numbers 21:4-9.

Second

Years later, the bronze serpent was broken in pieces as “the children of Israel did burn incense to it”, they worshiped it. Note 2 Kings 18:4, He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan. It is important for us to see how easy it is to take the lessons of God and twist them around to do our own will, even to the point of idolatry. It is an error to worship the objects or the people that God chooses, in order to teach us and help us to understand “The True,” which builds our faith and draws us closer to Him. We should give all honor and glory to God. It is a grave error to think that because God “divinely commanded” (E.G.W) Moses to make the graven images to help us understand “The True” they represented, that it gives us permission to make them. Remember God said “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” **Isaiah 55:8-9.** “Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways.” **Proverbs 8:32.** We are to obey God.

When God said “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.** We should not make nor have them. For we are told to “Take heed unto yourselves, **lest ye forget** the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee.” **Deuteronomy 4:23.** We are to keep the whole **Law of God** and keep both parts of this Commandment as it is written. “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: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. **Exodus 20:4-6.** “For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes.” **Jeremiah 16:17.**

Third

The third place we read about the brazen serpent in the Bible is in **John 3:14-15.** “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.” Jesus was showing Nicodemus that the bronze serpent was a prophesy pointing to Himself. Read **John 12:32.** “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through **faith.**” **Galatians 3:13-14.** “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” **2 Corinthians 5:21.** Jesus became the serpent that represented sin for us. He took our sins upon Himself and He was lifted up upon the Cross. In return He gave us His Righteousness. All we need to do is look to Jesus for healing from sin, in

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faith, believing in Him that He is The One that gives life, that we may have life, life eternal.

This faith, in believing in Jesus, is not one that we have without action. This is acting faith, faith that changes our lives to walk in God's will, not ours. First the children of Israel had to look at the serpent on the pole in order to live. Acting faith in doing God's will; for it was the will of God that the children of Israel trusted in Him and looked up at the serpent on the pole in faith and live.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. [Proverbs 3:5-6](#).

Sadly, today many people have graven images in their homes and around their homes. Today you can walk into homes and see images made by pagans who worship idol gods, in idolatry. These idols are placed up high as in a place of honor and these people claim to be of a christen faith. Because the second Commandment is not kept correctly, the Word of God in this Commandment has been made void and image worship and idol worship is throughout the whole entire world. When I say image worship, I mean graven images of God's creation. Whether or not it's of a fake belief of a god, or praise to man for the making of a copy of God's Creation; In God's eyes it's the same thing.

There is no excuse for any one in taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without an error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people, is not a proof that our ideas are infallible. Age will not make error into truth, and truth can afford to be fair. No true doctrine will lose anything by close investigation. We are living in perilous times, and it does not become us to accept everything claimed to be truth without examining it thoroughly; neither can we afford to reject anything that bears the fruits of the Spirit of God; but we should be teachable, meek and lowly of heart. There are those who oppose everything that is not in accordance with their own ideas, and by so doing they endanger their eternal interest as verily as

did the Jewish nation in their rejection of Christ. The Lord designs that our opinions shall be put to the test, that we may see the necessity of closely examining the living oracles to see whether or not we are in the faith. Many who claim to believe the truth have settled down at their ease, saying, "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing." But Jesus says to these self-complacent ones, Thou "knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Let us individually inquire, Do these words describe my case? If so, the True Witness counsels us, saying, "Buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve, that thou mayest see." {RH, December 20, 1892 par. 1}

From the description of the Laodiceans, it is evident that many were deceived in their estimate of their spiritual condition. They regarded themselves as rich, as possessing all the knowledge and grace that was needed; but yet they lacked the gold of faith and love, the white raiment of Christ's righteousness. They were destitute and poverty-stricken, walking in sparks of their own kindling, and preparing to lie down in sorrow. Jesus says to them, "I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and **do the first works** [when the glow of the love of God was upon you]; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." This warning would not be given if there were no danger of failure on the part of those who profess to be the children of God. {RH, December 20, 1892 par. 2}

In unmistakable language our position is presented before us. Apart from Christ we have no merit, no righteousness. Our sinfulness, our weakness, **our human imperfections make it impossible that we should appear before God, unless we are clothed in Christ's spotless righteousness.** We are to be found in him, not having our own righteousness, but the righteousness which is through Christ. {RH, December 20, 1892 par. 3} (Reference December 20, 1892 Christ Our Hope. RH - the Review and Herald

By Mrs. E. G. White.)

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Read the following to remind you of the words God has given us regarding this subject that we may have wisdom and understanding.

Exodus 20:4-6.

Deuteronomy 5:8-10.

Deuteronomy 4:1-6, 13-40.

Isaiah 42:8.

And I that am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast. I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets. [Hosea 12:9, 10.](#)

Always remember that the first Commandment covers idol worship. That is, of any kind of idol, whatever it may be, including graven images. For we are not to have any other gods before God, our Heavenly Father. See Exodus 20:3. Yet, in the second Commandment, God goes to the next level, and that is giving us His copywrite Law. Asking us not to make nor worship the graven images. We all use the copywrite law to protect the work we all put our time and mark on. God set His copywrite law into His Commandments. Trust in God, uphold His copywrite law, and be set free in the truth, for it is the truth that makes us free. See John 8:31, 32.

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

[John 14:15.](#)

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. [1 John 5:2, 3.](#)

In closing your study time with God today, pray; I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart. [Psalm 40:8.](#) *And ask God to guide you always to seek His will in all that you do, and to walk in His will throughout your life in Christ Jesus. Remember to pray for others and then your need, as we should let our “requests be made known unto God.”* [Philippians 4:6.](#) *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto*

thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” [Proverbs 3:5-6.](#) *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.* [1 Timothy 1:17.](#)