

Second River -- Idol Worship

by Martin Knapp

The sermon emphasizes the dangers of idolatry and the importance of true worship of the living God.

Scripture: Exodus 20:4, Psalm 115:4, Daniel 12:3, Acts 17:29, 1 Corinthians 10:14, Colossians 3:5, 1 Thessalonians 1:9, 1 John 5:21, Revelation 21:8

Topics: "Idol Worship", "Repentance"

Description

Martin Knapp delivers a powerful sermon on the sin of idolatry, emphasizing the First Commandment's prohibition of internal idolatry and the Second Commandment's prohibition of outward idolatry. He highlights God's severe view of idolatry, leading to death and eternal punishment in the lake of fire. Knapp warns against various forms of idolatry, such as worshiping images, dedicating temples to false gods, and rejecting Jesus for sham religion, stressing the importance of turning from idols to serve the living God.

Transcript

"Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image, nor the likeness of any form 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 unto them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate Me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me and keep My commandments." --Ex. xx, 4-6.

The First Commandment forbids all internal, or heart-idolatry. The Second, all outward idolatry. One is treason against God in the heart; the other against hoisting the traitor's flag and proclaiming it.

God looks upon idolatry as one of the vilest sins that can be committed against Him.

It is so awful in His sight that He commanded people who were found guilty of it to be stoned to death, and in Rev. xxi, 8, He declares of all idolators:

"Their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death."

You are guilty of this wickedness if you do the following things:

Make gods of stone or wood or clay or anything else, and bow down and worship them.

Dedicate temples to other than the true God.

Build costly churches to please human pride and ambition, instead of for the glory of God.

Offer prayers and sacrifices to other than the God of Heaven.

Worship images of Mary or of the saints.

The following are some of the reasons why all should avoid this crime:

God has expressly forbidden it.

It is saying publicly that you reject Jesus and accept sham religion.

It is degrading to you who are guilty of it, as one can not rise higher than the object of his worship.

It strengthens you in your error. It dethrones the true God from His place of worship in your soul, and puts a base substitute in His stead.

It never satisfies the cravings of your immortal soul. It brings disappointment and chagrin, the displeasure of the true God, exclusion from Heaven, and eternal torment.

This Stream is one of the largest tributaries of the River of Death. Whole nations are drifting upon its apparently placid bosom.

Your condition is the more deplorable because by this act of treason against the true God, who loves you, and His Son, Jesus Christ, who died for you, that you shut yourself out of pardon, help, and Heaven, and throw the doors of your soul wide open to all the follies and superstitions and vices with which Satan delights to deceive you.

God commands His people to herald and proclaim to these darkened ones the "glad tidings of great joy," that they may "turn from these idols to serve the living and true God, and wait for His Son from heaven."

Would you not like to be one of the honored number who will go and tell them? If you will fully yield all to Him, possibly He will call you to this glorious work, and help you, among the heathen nations, to win multitudes to Jesus, and be among the number of whom He has said:

"They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." -- Dan. xii, 3.

People who are converted from Idolatry often become the very best of Christians.

I have heard of two little boys in China who had given up all their Idols and were fully following Jesus. They were bitterly persecuted, both by their teacher and by their playmates, who were heathen. Finally the teacher commanded these two boys to stand up before the school, and all the other pupils marched around the room, and every one of them spit on their faces. The little heroes did not flinch nor complain, but broke out in a triumphant song:

Must Jesus bear the cross alone,

And all the world go free?

No, there 's a cross for every one,

And there's a cross for me.

The consecrated cross I'll bear,

Till death shall set me free,

And then go home my crown to wear;

For there 's a crown for me."

Do you believe that you would have been as brave? Surely you may, if, like them, your trust is in the living God.

Having read these two chapters, can you look right up into the face of God, and say, "Heavenly Father, I have renounced every Idol that was in my heart, and every Idol that was outside of it?"

Woe unto all who are' drifting on either of these fearful Streams toward the Falls of Eternal Despair.

Happy are they who, through Jesus, have been rescued from their waters, and are now rejoicing in the consciousness that Jesus saves.

"Little children, keep yourselves from Idols."

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/martin-knapp/second-river-idol-worship/>

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