

Dear Church Family,

Last week we looked at the first commandment found in Exodus 20 where God says, *You shall have no other gods before me*. I essentially came away with the concept of the need to find God in all things good. This takes a conscientious effort on our part. As our faith grows, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to see God moving. Today I would encourage us to look at the second commandment.

### **Exodus 20**

*And God spoke all these words:*

<sup>2</sup> *"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*

<sup>3</sup> *"You shall have no other gods before Me.*

<sup>4</sup> *"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup>but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.*

This commandment tells us that nothing is to take the place of God. We as followers of Jesus know this fact and yet somehow even we can make this mistake. Relationships, health and wealth as well as daily activities seem to crowd out God. When our world becomes all about us and our comforts, God is easily replaced.

We might ask, *how do we win this ongoing battle?* God has given us the tools to constantly fight. We have the Holy Spirit, the Word, direct access to God in prayer, and each other to lean on, seek advice from and receive correction from.

God the Father gave Adam and Eve a very specific job: caretaker of all the earth and all that is in it. Like them, we are responsible and honor bound to do the job. Like any job, if done well there are benefits and rewards. Imagine the

pride Adam and Eve felt when God walked beside them and said, *You did well today. good job!*

For many, when given a job, we take ownership of each and every project as we create a vision of the end result. If we are not careful, we may become consumed by the work, and this may become our god. Anything we are doing that's not for God's glory has the potential to take our eyes off Jesus. There is the key: we tend to live only in our human understanding and forgetting that, when we chose Jesus, He gave us the Spirit of God so that we may understand godly things and accomplish what seems impossible.

This then is how we please God, by placing all things back into His hands. Some of these things may be our relationships (good and bad), our health, wealth and security.

There is so much more to this love story than I have written here and could possibly write for the rest of my life. Too much for my feeble mind to comprehend and yet my soul desires so much more. The simple truth is this: God is our God and there is no other, we are not to replace Him. Simply, put God first in EVERYTHING! When we love Him, He guarantees His love to a thousand generations! We are to love God.

Your Brother in Christ,

Archie