



Sermon: The American Idol

Date: May 5, 2024

I. Introduction

- a. If we build our life on values that God wants, we will have strong lives.
- b. Principles in the Bible are tied to promises. Putting God first brings forth a promise.

Proverbs 3:6 AMPC

⁶In all your ways know, recognize, and acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths.

Proverbs 3:6 TLB

⁶In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success.

- c. The Living Bible says, “In everything you do put God first, then he will give you direction. Then he will crown every effort with success. If you put God first in everything (principle) Then he will crown every effort with success (promise).
- d. Whatever area we want to be blessed in our life, put him first there.

II. The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-5 AMP

¹THEN GOD spoke all these words: ²I am the Lord your God, Who has brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³You shall have no other gods before or besides Me. ⁴You shall not make yourself any graven image [to worship it] or any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵You shall not bow down yourself to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me,

- a. The first four commandments deal with our relationship with God, the last six deals with our relationship with others.
- b. Verse 3 No other God before him. God is a jealous God, he wants our attention.
- c. Verse 4 Do not make a graven image.
 - i. An idol is an image that we put before God.
 - ii. Once you get a real image of God, any other image can't substitute for the real thing.
 - iii. If I am having a hard time putting something in front of God (relationships, cars, families, and etc), it's because I don't have a real picture of the real God in my life.
 - iv. Notice whatever image that I worship, I take on its form.
- d. In the Bible there are three major idols.
 - i. God of Mammon (God of Money)
 - ii. God of Baal (God of sex)
 - iii. Molack (God of violence)

III. Disadvantages of idols.

Jeremiah 10:1-10 NLT

¹ Hear the word that the LORD speaks to you, O Israel! ² This is what the LORD says: “Do not act like the other nations, who try to read their future in the stars. Do not be afraid of their

predictions, even though other nations are terrified by them. ³ Their ways are futile and foolish. They cut down a tree, and a craftsman carves an idol. ⁴ They decorate it with gold and silver and then fasten it securely with hammer and nails so it won't fall over ⁵ Their gods are like helpless scarecrows in a cucumber field! They cannot speak, and they need to be carried because they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of such gods, for they can neither harm you nor do you any good." ⁶ LORD, there is no one like you! For you are great, and your name is full of power. ⁷ Who would not fear you, O King of nations? That title belongs to you alone! Among all the wise people of the earth and in all the kingdoms of the world, there is no one like you. ⁸ People who worship idols are stupid and foolish. The things they worship are made of wood ⁹ They bring beaten sheets of silver from Tarshish and gold from Uphaz, and they give these materials to skillful craftsmen who make their idols. Then they dress these gods in royal blue and purple robes made by expert tailors. ¹⁰ But the LORD is the only true God. He is the living God and the everlasting King! The whole earth trembles at his anger. The nations cannot stand up to his wrath. ¹¹ Say this to those who worship other gods: "Your so-called gods, who did not make the heavens and earth, will vanish from the earth and from under the heavens."^[a] ¹² But God made the earth by his power, and he preserves it by his wisdom. With his own understanding he stretched out the heavens. ¹³ When he speaks in the thunder, the heavens roar with rain. He causes the clouds to rise over the earth. He sends the lightning with the rain and releases the wind from his storehouses. ¹⁴ The whole human race is foolish and has no knowledge! The craftsmen are disgraced by the idols they make, for their carefully shaped works are a fraud. These idols have no breath or power. ¹⁵ Idols are worthless; they are ridiculous lies! On the day of reckoning they will all be destroyed.

- a. Four Disadvantages of an idol.
 - i. Idols will disappoint us.
 - ii. Idols will dominate and control us.
 - iii. Idols will distract us. It will get us off track.

Jeremiah 2:5 AMPC

⁵Thus says the Lord: What unrighteousness did your fathers find in Me, that they went far from Me and [habitually] went after emptiness, falseness, and futility and themselves became fruitless and worthless?

- iv. Idols will deform us.
 - 1. You take on the image that you bow to.
 - 2. They went after empty, they became empty.
 - 3. When you go after worthless, you become worthless.
- b. I take on the image of whatever I worship.

Psalms 115:8 AMPC

⁸They who make idols are like them; so are all who trust in and lean on them.

- IV. Advantage of putting him first in our life.
 - a. Fulfillment
 - b. Freedom
 - c. Develops us