Sunday, September 20, 2020

Pursuing a Single Ambition

Exodus 20:4-6

David H. McKinley

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[4]You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. [5]You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, [6]but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments. —Exodus 20:4-6

[16]Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols… [22]So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. [23]For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you." —Acts 17:16, 22-23

1. Idolatry is a

_____ Today

"An idol is anything we love more, fear more, serve more or trust more than Almighty God." —Adrian Rogers

"The human heart is an idol factory."

2. Idolatry is

_____

[23]…I found also an altar with this inscription: "To the unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. [24]The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, [25]nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. [26]And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, [27]that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us. —Acts 17:23b-27

Notes:

"Idolatry attempts to either localize God by containing the Creator or to domesticate Him or to alienate Him by blaming Him for His distance and His silence or to dethrone Him by demoting Him to some image of our contrivance or our crafts when He is in fact the Father from whom we derive all our creativity, craftiness and imagination. There is no logic in idolatry; it is a perverse topsy-turvy expression of our human rebellion against God." —John Stott

3. Idolatry Brings _____ to You and Your Family

[5]You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, [6]but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments. —Exodus 20:5-6

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. —Mark 10:45

[9]For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, [10]and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
—1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

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David H. McKinley, Pastor-Teacher

davidhmckinley.com

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