

LORD'S DAY 35

Suggested Devotional Readings Prior to Class

Exodus 20:22-26, Acts 17:29, John 4:22-24

QUESTION 96. What does God require in the second commandment?

ANSWER. We are not to make an image of God in any way,¹ nor to worship Him in any other manner than He has commanded in His Word.²

QUESTION 97. May we then not make any image at all?

ANSWER. God cannot and may not be visibly portrayed in any way. Creatures may be portrayed, but God forbids us to make or have any images of them in order to worship them or to serve God through them.¹

QUESTION 98. But may images not be tolerated in the churches as "books for the laity"?

ANSWER. No, for we should not be wiser than God. He wants His people to be taught not by means of dumb images¹ but by the living preaching of His Word.²

Lords Day 35 [Q&A 96.1]

Deuteronomy 4:15-19, “Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, 18 the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the Lord your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.

Isaiah 40:18-25, To whom then will you liken God,
or what likeness compare with him?

An idol! A craftsman casts it,
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold
and casts for it silver chains.

He who is too impoverished for an offering
chooses wood[a] that will not rot;
he seeks out a skillful craftsman
to set up an idol that will not move.

Do you not know? Do you not hear?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

who brings princes to nothing,
and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows on them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

Acts 17:29, Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

Romans 1:23, ...and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Lords Day 35 [Q&A 96.2]

Leviticus 10:1-7, Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized[a] fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord has said: ‘Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.’” And Aaron held his peace.

And Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said to them, “Come near; carry your brothers away from the front of the sanctuary and out of the camp.” So they came near and carried them in their coats out of the camp, as Moses had said. And Moses said to Aaron and to Eleazar and Ithamar his sons, “Do not let the hair of your heads hang loose, and do not tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the congregation; but let your brothers, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning that the Lord has kindled. And do not go outside the entrance of the tent of meeting, lest you die, for the anointing oil of the Lord is upon you.” And they did according to the word of Moses.

Deuteronomy 12:30, ...take care that you be not ensnared to follow them, after they have been destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods?—that I also may do the same.’

I Samuel 15:22, 23, And Samuel said,
“Has 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 listen than the fat of rams.

Matthew 15:9, in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

John 4:23, 24, But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

Lords Day 35 [Q&A 97.1]

Ex. 34:13, 14, 17, You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim... (for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), You shall not make for yourself any gods of cast metal.

Numbers 33:52,... then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish all their high places.

II Kings 18:4, 5, He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan). He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him.

Isaiah 40:25, To whom then will you compare me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

Lords Day 35 [Q&A 98.1]

Jeremiah 10:8, They are both stupid and foolish;
the instruction of idols is but wood!

Habakuk 2:18-20, "What profit is an idol
when its maker has shaped it,
a metal image, a teacher of lies?
For its maker trusts in his own creation
when he makes speechless idols!
Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake;
to a silent stone, Arise!
Can this teach?
Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver,
and there is no breath at all in it.
But the Lord is in his holy temple;
let all the earth keep silence before him."

Lords Day 35 [Q&A 98.2]

Romans 10:14-17, How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"...So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

II Timothy 3:16, 17, All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

II Peter 1:19, And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,