

Ten Commandments – Sermon 2

Hello, today we are going to continue our series on the 10 commandments. We are going to look again today at the 1st commandment.

Let's look up: Exodus 20:2-3

Can any of you tell me: "What is it to have a God?"

To have a God is to love and know one who is able to:

- Help us
- Save us
- And to make us happy

And to have a God is to follow one who:

- Expects our highest love
- Expects our unquestioning obedience
- Expects our sincere worship.

What is it to have a God?:

It is to know and love one who is able to help us, save us, and make us happy; giving our highest love, obedience, and worship to Him.

Pray:

Now, look back at Exodus 20:2-3..... Are there any other questions we should ask?

Why?

Why should we have no other gods but the Lord?

1. It is very foolish to do so.

Illustration #1:

Have you ever been in a jewelry shop? There are lots and lots of gold and diamonds and rubies in a jewelry shop... many many beautiful and expensive things. How much do you think it would cost to go in and buy everything they had?

There was a little boy one day about 4 years old and he has been put in his big brothers old suit for the first time... a nice little suit coat and jacket. He is going to a wedding with his family and he is all dressed up and he is feeling good. He thinks he is a big man. His uncle had given him a quarter and he has that in his pocket and so he thinks is a big man and very very rich.

This little boy walks by the jewelry store with his family and looks in the windows and sees all the beautiful gold, and rubies and diamonds and he decides that he is going to go in and buy everything they have for his mother.

What do you think?

“Poor foolish child.” How silly to think he could buy all that jewelry with just a quarter.... But you know what? This little boy isn’t half as foolish as we are when we think that anyone else or anything else other than God can help us, save us, and make us happy.

Why should we have no other gods but the Lord?

1. It is very foolish to do so.

Illustration #2

When we worship false Gods it’s like turning off the sun and then trying to light the world with candles... does that sound smart to you?... No, that would be completely foolish.

Illustration #3

Someone might say... “But I can’t understand everything about the Bible and God and so I’m just going to forget it... does that sound smart to you? No, that would be very foolish.

There was a little girl on a beach who had dug a hole in the sand. She was running back and forth between the water and her hole with a bucket carrying water from the ocean and dumping it in her hole. A man walked by and asked her what she was doing. She said, “I’m putting the ocean in this hole that I’ve dug.”

Will the little girl ever get the entire ocean in the hole? Of course not... and we will never be able to understand everything about God because he is so big and mighty like the ocean and our minds are so small like this little hole that the girl had dug.

But it would be very foolish to not worship God just because there are things we don’t understand. And that’s why we need to keep studying and learning about God.

Why should we have no other gods but the Lord?

1. It is very foolish to do so.

And

2. It is very dangerous

Illustration #1

Don’t you think it would be very dangerous to leave a sick man in a place where he couldn’t see a doctor or get to a hospital?

Don't you think it would be very dangerous to leave a hungry man in a place where he couldn't get food?

In Switzerland and in other places in the world there are very large frozen rivers and mountains of ice called glaciers. These large glaciers will often have large cracks and holes in them and sometimes mountain climbers or hikers will fall down into these cracks that might be 100 ft. deep. Now, imagine that a man fell down in one of these cracks... this is a very dangerous problem isn't it? What if his friends have no rope or aren't strong enough to pull him out.

Friends, because of sin... we are like the sick man that needs to see a doctor... we are like the hungry man with no food. Because of sin we are like this man that has fallen into the glacier. We are in great danger and have a great need of being saved because our souls are lost, sick, and hungry.

We need help from God.

Illustration #2

In China there are millions of people who worship the false gods Buddha and Confucius. Listen to this story:

A man had fallen into a dark pit. He lay on the bottom of the pit wounded, bleeding, and groaning for help... completely unable to get himself out of the pit. This man was in a very dangerous situation.

Well... the wise man Confucius walked by and looked over the edge of the pit and said:

"Poor fellow! I am very sorry for you. Why were you so foolish to fall in there? Let me give you a good piece of advice: if you ever get out again, then don't fall back in there."

The poor man groaned in pain.... "I can't get out."

Just then a Buddhist priest walked by and leaned over the pit.

"Poor fellow! I am very much pained to see you in there. I think if you could manage to scramble up two-thirds of the way or even just half way then I could reach you and help you out."

But this man was completely helpless he could not get out and he could not climb up even a little bit.

Next, the Lord Jesus Christ came by and heard the man groaning in the bottom of the pit.

Jesus heard the cries of this man; he climbed down into the pit and took the man on his shoulders. He brought him out of the pit, he healed his wounds, and set his feet upon a rock and told him to go and sin no more.

Why should we have no other gods but the Lord?

It is very dangerous because of our sin.... False gods cannot help us or save us from our sin... but the one true God... Jesus Christ can lift us out of the pit, heal our broken hearts and save us from danger.

Look at Exodus 20:3

You shall have no other gods before^[a] me.

What is it to have a God?

To have a God is to love and know one who is able to:

- Help us
- Save us
- And to make us happy

And to have a God is to follow one who:

- Expects our highest love
- Expects our unquestioning obedience
- Expects our sincere worship.

Why should we have no other gods but the Lord?

1. It is very foolish to do so.
2. It is very dangerous to do so.

Pray