

Habakkuk 2:18-20; Lord's Day 35
PROPER WORSHIP OF OUR GOD

- I. The concept.
 - A. The Reformed churches prohibit images of God from three perspectives.
 - 1. One, the use of images of God is an incomplete break from paganism, and almost inevitably leads to outright idolatry.
 - 2. Two, what God has revealed of Himself in Scripture is sufficient for a vibrant religious life for His people.
 - 3. Three, God's attribute of spirituality implies that any attempt to portray Him visibly will misrepresent Him.
 - B. However, let us realize that though God is spirit, Scripture gives us the hope of seeing Him because of divine revelation.
 - 1. There are Scripture promises that God will be seen by His people (Ps. 17:15; 27:4; John 14:9; Heb. 12:14; Ex. 33:18,22).
 - 2. It seems that in heaven we will see Him in the face of Jesus: I John 3:2.
- II. God requires that He be worshiped, loved, and thanked accurately, i.e., as He has revealed Himself.
 - A. God gives a revelation of Himself to all men in creation (Rom. 1:18,20) and puts the work of the law in them (Rom. 2:14,15).
 - 1. But natural man is able only to know about (not "know") God (I Cor. 2:14; Rom. 1:18b, 21-23).
 - 2. God further reveals Himself in His Word and in the preaching of His Word (I Cor. 1:21).
 - B. This commandment establishes the "regulative principle" of worship.
 - 1. He determines how man will serve Him, so we include in worship only what God commands.
 - 2. The characteristics of public worship are: spirituality, simplicity, solemnity, orderliness, and stability (I Cor. 14:33,40).
- III. The commandment gives powerful motivations and encouragements to obey Him.
 - A. First, God declares Himself to be angry with those who don't worship Him as He commands, declaring that they hate Him.
 - B. Second, God declares that disobedience to this command bears fruit on our children.
 - C. God promises to show His mercy on those who serve Him as He commands, thus encouraging obedience.