

## INTRODUCTION

The Son of God took on flesh; that is, He, being God, became also a man; so that He is now Son of God and Son of Man. So, when He was conceived as a man in the womb of the virgin Mary, He became subject to God's laws, including The Ten Commandments.

Unlike the rest of us, Jesus is not counted as having sinned in Adam, when Adam sinned. And He was conceived and born into this world without the sin in His flesh that we have. Then, as He walked among us in this world, He resisted all temptation to sin, even temptation from the devil himself in person. Unlike us, He always obeys God's commandments, not only in His actions, but also in His words and even His very thoughts. He always loves God with all His heart, mind, soul, and strength, and always loves His neighbor as Himself.

The Bible tells of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ worshiping God. He assembled with other worshipers on the Sabbath day, read to the people from the scriptures, and explained or expounded the scriptures to them. He often prayed. He sang a hymn with His disciples. Because He lived in the time of the Old Covenant, which had been given to Israel through Moses, Jesus obeyed all the Old Covenant ceremonial laws about worshiping in Jerusalem at the temple, and about eating the Passover.

In all His worshiping, our Lord Jesus never worshiped in a way that was not ordained by God. Hear His own words:

John 8:28-29 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. 29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

So, when Jesus Christ was lifted up on the cross, when He suffered and died, He was not being punished by God for any sin of His own; He was not receiving the wages of His sin, because He had committed no sin. He was not scourged for His corrupting God's worship in disobedience to the second commandment. Instead, He suffered and died for our guilt in corrupting God's worship, for our transgression of God's commandments, including the second commandment. He died for our sins; He was buried; and on the third day, being the first day of the week, Jesus rose again to live forevermore.

Now the good news, the gospel, goes out to all men everywhere: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved from the wrath of God that is to come upon sinners. Repent, turning from all your sins, to return to God with all your heart, and God will forgive you. He will forgive all your sins, considering you to be washed clean in the blood of Jesus Christ. He will forgive even your breaking of the second commandment, all your corrupting of the pure worship that He ordained. In believing on Jesus Christ and returning to God in repentance, you become a disciple of Jesus Christ, a devoted student and follower of Him as the Master Teacher. So, having become His disciple, you are baptized, proclaiming your faith in Him by that symbol. Then, as the Master said, you are to be taught to observe everything He has commanded us.

So, week in and week out, all over the world, the servants of the Lord Jesus stand in front of His congregations to read the scriptures aloud. From the scriptures, we preach the good news of forgiveness of sins for sinners. And from the scriptures, we teach and remind you what our Lord's commands are, so we can obey Him, following in His steps as He also obeyed them when He walked here with us.

These days, I am speaking to you from The Ten Commandments, and we are now working on the second one of the ten. Last week, I was speaking to you from the account of King Jeroboam about what things can indicate the presence of corruption in a congregation's worship of God, which corruptions may be disobedience to the second commandment. Today I finish making those observations with you.

TEXT

Exodus 20:4-6  
1 Kings 12:26-33

BODY

## Indications of corrupt worship not in obedience to the second commandment

- I. Leaders say that what God has commanded is not best, not necessary
  - A. remember what Jeroboam said, that it was too much for the worshipers to travel down to the temple in Jerusalem as God had ordained
  - B. making the worshipers' ease or preference the deciding factor in worship, rather than God's will
  - C. e.g. the choir or praise band will sing for you
  - D. e.g. response to the gospel
    1. Jesus said Matthew 16:24 ...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.
    2. His apostles preached that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins; that sinners should believe in Jesus Christ, and repent, turning from their sins to serve God, and so be forgiven their sins and have eternal life
    3. but in a corrupt worship, the preacher will offer some easier response
      - a) walk down front
      - b) repeat this prayer
      - c) ask Jesus into your heart
- II. Gathering for worship on the Lord's Day in the congregation is de-emphasized in favor of something else
  - A. remember that Jeroboam made other places for the people to go, instead of the place God had ordained, which was the temple in Jerusalem
    1. v. 29 one in Bethel, and the other...in Dan
    2. v. 31 he made an house of high places
  - B. on the part of the leaders
    1. sometimes it is cancelled
    2. alternatives are offered
      - a) come on Saturday night, so you don't have to come on the Lord's Day
      - b) stay home and watch on the TV screen
  - C. on the part of the worshipers: worshipers often choose something else to do

- III. Unqualified people are placed in office
  - A. remember that Jeroboam made people priests who were not of the tribe of Levi and the house of Aaron, which was against God's law
  - B. today we sometimes see people set in office in the congregations
    - 1. those not known to be sound in the faith, able to teach
    - 2. those not known to be of good character
    - 3. those known not to be of good character
      - a) those who act wicked themselves
      - b) those who pander to wickedness in the culture
    - 4. those who are not men
  
- IV. Man-made holidays are observed religiously
  - A. Jeroboam created a new holiday, which he had devised in his own heart (33)
  - B. for example
    - 1. Mother's Day
    - 2. Father's Day
    - 3. Veteran's Day
    - 4. Reformation Day
    - 5. Easter
    - 6. Christmas
  - C. I intend to speak more on this when we come to the fourth commandment.
  - D. Doing away with the many man-made holidays was a major component of the Reformation
  
- V. Pastors perform functions not within their purview
  - A. Jeroboam offered sacrifices on the altar himself, which he, as king, had not right to do (32)
  - B. pastors
    - 1. acting as if apostles
    - 2. acting as if prophets
    - 3. acting as if CEOs or entrepreneurs

## CONCLUSION

Based on the history of Jeroboam, we derive several things that can indicate to us the presence of corruption in religion:

- People seem to be thinking about religion in terms of man's glory rather than God's glory
- Leaders seek counsel about worship from men rather than God
- Worship leaders give people something to do in worship that God has not commanded in the Bible, possibly using fragments of scripture taken out of context
- Leaders say that what God has commanded is not best, not necessary
- Gathering for worship in the congregation on the Lord's Day is de-emphasized in favor of something else
- Unqualified people are placed in office
- Man-made holidays are observed religiously
- Pastors perform functions not within their purview

When King Jeroboam corrupted worship in Israel, it was sin for him, the breaking of the second commandment. In the following pages, the Bible repeatedly refers to what he did as "the sins of Jeroboam."

But see in verse 30 that this thing became a sin for the people, also. It was no sin in the people that their leader ordered the worship of God to be corrupted with innovations he had devised in his own heart. But when they went along with it, when they did the corrupt things that their leader had ordered, it became sin in the worshipers, also.

Our Lord Jesus did not do such things. Whatever corruptions the leaders of Israel were ordering, He did not participate in. Instead, he rebuked and corrected their corruptions, even going so far as to make a whip and drive the corruption out of the temple, the house of God.

So, then, let us learn about God's second commandment from the account of the sins of Jeroboam, so as to watch out for them. Whatever leaders today are doing similar things, let us not follow. In our own congregation, let us delight in worship as God ordained, and make no innovations of our own devising. As we consider pastors in the future, let us have only pastors who are committed to the regulative principle of worship, so that neither the leader nor the people will sin the sins of Jeroboam, but instead will do only what we have received from the apostles, as they received it for our Lord Jesus.

Cecily - Prelude "All My Heart This Night Rejoices"

Angie - Trinity 634 "Hallelujah! Thine the Glory" - Alex lead

Rita - Trinity 734 "Jehovah, My God"

Rita - Trinity 362 "Let Thy Blood In Mercy Poured" - Andrew lead

Dillon - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 119:113-120

Stephen - Scripture Reading - Psalm 7

Thad - Congregational Prayer

1645 Directory for the Publick Worship of God

Appendix: Touching Days and Places for Publick Worship

THERE is no day commanded in scripture to be kept holy under the gospel but the Lord's day, which is the Christian Sabbath.

Festival days, vulgarly called Holy-days, having no warrant in the word of God, are not to be continued.

June 1647 act of Parliament

Forasmuch as the feast of the nativity of Christ, Easter, Whitsuntide, and other festivals, commonly called holy-days, have been heretofore superstitiously used and observed; be it ordained, that the said feasts, and all other festivals, commonly called holy-days, be no longer observed as festivals; any law, statute, custom, constitution, or canon, to the contrary in anywise not withstanding.

Durham:

...this command is broken doctrinally...when something is added to his service, which he hath not commanded; and this is superstition and will-worship largely so taken. Of this kind are...4. More officers in his house than he hath appointed; such as, bishops, cardinals, etc...6. More holy-days than God hath instituted.

This command is broken by corrupting of God's worship; as when...the word is mixed with errors...unqualified men put into the ministry, and kept in it...

Men sin against this command, when they practise will-worship and superstition, in serving God by duties he never required: Whether, 1. It be will-worship in respect of the service itself; as when that is gone about as duty, which is not itself lawful; as when such and such pilgrimages and penances are appointed by men to be done as service to God: Or, 2. When worship or service under the gospel is astricted to such a place, as if it were holier to pray in one place than in another, and that therefore God did hear prayer there more willingly and easily than in another place. Or, 3. In respect of a bodily posture, as if there were more religion in one posture than in another; as in receiving the Lord's supper kneeling, or praying in such and such a posture, except in so far as it is decent, and otherwise rightly regulate by rules of prudence and nature's light. 4. When it is without a divine warrant tied to such a time only, as *Christmas* (commonly called *Yule*), *Easter*, *Pasch*, etc. which is an observing of times that God hath not appointed.

...want of zeal against error or false worship, not stretching ourselves in all lawful endeavours to entertain and maintain the true worship of God, are here forbidden...

...so likewise the putting in, and keeping in unworthy ministers...

...not singing with the voice at all, altho' the tongue be given us as our glory, that we may therewith thus glorify God.

## VI. Scriptures to Help Interpret and Apply Second Commandment

- A. In the best published expositions of The Ten Commandments, there are some scriptures that are referenced as helps in understanding the second commandment. I have been so helped by them that I hope to help you by them, also.
- B. 1 Corinthians 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you...
  1. our Lord Jesus gave instructions to His apostles about how God is to be worshiped
  2. the apostles delivered those instructions to us, the Lord's disciples, in His congregations
  3. Ussher: We must observe the Apostle's Rule and Practice (1 Cor 11:23)...For if he might add nothing to God's ordinance, much less may we.
- C. Colossians 2:18-23 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God. 20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, 21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not; 22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.
  1. translations
    - a) Geneva: voluntarie religion
    - b) NKJV: self-imposed religion
    - c) ESV, CSB: self-made religion
  2. the doctrines and commandments that determine how we practice religion are not to be of men, but of God
  3. concept: to make up one's own religious practices is



- a) like the body not staying connected to the head
- b) only a show of wisdom, not true wisdom
- c) worship or religion that is of the will of man, not the will of God