

THE WEEK OF
March 22nd, 2010



Jesus
Vs.
The American Idolater
Part 1
Exodus 20:1-7

**I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
You shall have no others gods before Me.**

You shall not make for yourself a carved image--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; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

Exodus 20:1-7

We have come a long way in our consideration of the victory that Jesus has provided in the many areas where we struggle. So far, we have seen His victory over The Deceiver, Consuming Wrath, Deadly Desires, Defiant Arrogance and Crippling Fear. This week we begin our second-to-last topic: Jesus vs. The American Idolater. Like the rest, we have access to victory over our temptation to commit idolatry. Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, has redeemed us, and thus taken *the penalty* for our sin. Now, as we are being sanctified, He is continually dealing with what remains in us: *the flesh* and *the power* of sin. This is where we live and where the struggle exists. We've said it before but its worth repeating. If you've been born again you now have two natures. The old fallen nature, the flesh, and the new nature, the spirit. These two natures are at odds, so that you don't do what you want. While we are in these bodies we will struggle and deal with temptation. How important it is, then, to rely on Christ for wisdom, strength and grace. Especially when it comes to idolatry. This sin, in a real sense, includes all of the others. Jesus summed up all the commandments in two - Love God and love others. With idolatry, we are dealing with the heart of God and our love for Him.

**Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day example:
If it's the 1st day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)**

Mon: *The Standard:* Exodus 20 "I am the LORD..."

Tue: *The Greatest Commandment:* Matthew 22:34-40 "This is the first and great commandment."

Wed: *Worshipping created things:* Romans 1 "...worshipped the creature...rather than the creator..."

Thu: *Covetousness:* Colossians 3:1-11 esp. verse 5 "...put to death...covetousness, which is idolatry."

Fri: *The foolishness of Idolatry:* 1 Kings 18:20-40 "O Baal, hear us! But there was no voice."

Discussion Questions for Bible Café:

1. What does it mean to worship something or someone? How do we commit common idolatry?

2. What is your biggest struggle when it comes to idolatry? How can you overcome this struggle with the help of Christ?

Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):