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“From Idols to Altars”

Scripture: Exodus 20:22-26

Introduction

A. The Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any carved image.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness.
10. You shall not covet.

B. 1 Thessalonians 1:9

C. Big Idea: God cares how his people worship him.

I. God-honoring Worship Is Based on Scripture (20:22)

- A. God himself spoke to his people.
- B. Does God still speak today?
- C. Hebrews 1:1-2
- D. 2 Timothy 3:16–17
- E. 2 Peter 1:19

II. God-honoring Worship Delights in the One True God (20:23)

- A. For Christians, seeing God through the “eye” of faith in Scripture leads to believing and that leads to worshipping.
- B. But we are tempted to let other things fill up the space in our lives that God ought to occupy.
- C. How can we identify the idols in our lives?
 1. What am I hoping in?
 2. What am I counting on?
 3. What gives my life meaning?
 4. Where do I get my personal sense of worth?
 5. What am I thinking about?
 6. What am I working for?
 7. What makes me feel good?
 8. Where do I turn when I need comfort?
- D. God-honoring worship delights in the one true God.
- E. Acts 17:24

F. Psalm 37:4

III. God-honoring Worship Requires Sacrifice (20:24-26)

- A. God did not want his people worshiping like pagans.
- B. God wanted his people to worship him rightly and reverently.
- C. Exodus 28:42
- D. Altar—comes from the Hebrew word that means slaughter.
- E. Burnt offerings (Leviticus 1)
- F. Peace offerings (Leviticus 3)
- G. Hebrews 11:4

Conclusion

- A. Hebrews 10:1-14
- B. We no longer need to make God an altar.
- C. The sacrifice has been offered.
- D. Atonement has been made.
- E. Fellowship has been restored.
- F. It is ALL through Jesus and his death on the cross.
- G. The Gospel Definition