

TEACHING GOAL

To study the reasons for the second commandment.

DOCTRINAL STANDARDS

- Q. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?
- A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God's sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he has to his own worship.
- S.C. 52, L.C. 110, W.C. of F. XIX, Savoy 19, Young 82

SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Study Passage: Psalm 115

Support Passages: Exodus 20:5, Deuteronomy 4:24, 5:9, 6:14-15, Exodus 34:10-17, James 4:5

BIBLE STORY

John 2:13-17: Jesus cleanses the temple which shows us His own zeal for proper worship.

MEMORY ASSIGNMENT

Psalm 115:17-18

{17} The dead do not praise the LORD, Nor any who go down into silence. *{18}* But we will bless the LORD From this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

APPLICATION

The zeal of God for His own worship is unparalleled. Therefore the worship of YAHWEH is not to be eclectic or ecumenical but based on scripture and directed to Him alone. He owns us. He alone is our sovereign.

SUMMARY

God is said by scripture to be jealous. What an interesting concept! Jealousy, of course, can be a great sin when it issues in distrust or hatred. However, this cannot be true of YAHWEH whose very name is said to be jealous.

The Hebrew word *khanah* (jealousy) when used as an adjective is in scripture only used in connection with God. The noun form can mean ardor, zeal or jealousy and the verb form takes the meaning to be zealous or to be jealous. For God to be jealous means that He is intolerant of unfaithfulness or rivalry and this is His prerogative being the sovereign Lord of all. It is not evil or sinful, rather, it is His right to demand loyalty or faithfulness. He who issues the crown of life can require us to be faithful until death to receive it.¹

God owns His people and therefore is jealous for them. "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?"² James writes, "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us."³ That is to say, God demands submission from what is His.

Jesus demonstrated this jealousy for what is His when He drove the money-changers and animal-vendors from the temple. He was consumed by zeal (jealousy) for the house of God and exercised His sovereignty over it.⁴ He was intolerant of infidelity and brought judgement to those evil people by forcibly evicting them.

History is replete with examples of God's intolerance of infidelity. Shiloh, the ancient place of worship, was destroyed due to the wickedness of Israel.⁵ Jerusalem also was destroyed because she housed vessels made for Baal, for the Asherah, and for all the host of heaven.⁶ God brought judgement upon Constantinople, the chief seat of the Eastern empire for the same reason. India is continually plagued with famine and Africa with upheaval and chaos, not primarily due to racial bias but because they are idolaters and Marxists. God visits all such iniquity with judgement. The temples of Satan will not be tolerated because we deal with a jealous God who visits the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and fourth generation of those who hate Him.

As we leave this subject then, let us remember that the second commandment is enforced by a visitation of God's anger upon generations of idolaters and by the fact that God is jealous.

For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, *is* a jealous God.⁷

¹ Revelation 2:10

² I Corinthians 6:19

³ James 4:5

⁴ John 2:13-22

⁵ Jeremiah 7:12

⁶ 2 Kings 23:4

⁷ Exodus 34:14