

## Gods and Graven Images – Radio Show #130

I. Paul said in Romans 3:31, “We Establish the Law.” We are not under the law, but with proper teaching, we establish the law in its rightful place. That is what we will be seeking to do through this current series.

II. The Ten Commandments were in fact the ten terms of a covenant God made with the people of Israel. However, we also saw that the things listed in the Ten Commandments were wrong before this covenant was ever made. Those who make a religion out of Christianity make much of these commandments. We obey God through love, not law!

III. The Ten Commandments: The Commandments Themselves.

A. Exodus 20:3. Thou shalt have no other gods before my face.

1. Some say it is impossible to keep the Ten Commandments. This one is a command that could be kept. All should worship none but the Creator.
2. Had been their duty before the law was given. Now is a feature of the covenant. Before it was a grievous sin. Now also breaking covenant.
3. II Corinthians 4:6. Jesus Christ is the face of God.
4. Gods = *elohim*, plural. Means “Creator,” then “Judge.”
5. At issue: the One Who created us has the right to judge us.
6. I Corinthians 8:5. Many gods in the sense of judges.
7. Psalm 82:6. Judges to whom the Word came called “gods.” John 10:35.

B. Exodus 20:4-6. Graven images or likenesses.

1. Another command that could be kept!
2. Exodus 25:18. Statues made on the ark of the covenant! I Kings 6:23. More such statues in the temple in Jerusalem.
3. I Kings 6:29; 7:18, 36. Many carvings in the design of the temple.
4. Hebrew for “graven image” = *pecel*, (from root *pacal*, to cut, hew, or hew into shape). This word is never used in a positive sense. Synonymous with idols, Leviticus 26:1.
5. The making of figures was not outlawed, but the making of idols. Numbers 21:9 versus II Kings 18:4.
6. Exodus 20:5. Statues are not outlawed, just worshipping them.

IV. Paul places importance upon teaching the law lawfully. The Ten Commandments were the ten terms of a covenant God was making with Israel. They were wrong before the covenant was made, and are still wrong for those not in the covenant. We should have no God but the Creator. Idols are outlawed, not art. Let us learn from what God has taught in the Bible through the Ten Commandments.