

and eventually moved into infidelity and judgment patterns as seen in the Book of Judges. The law was very simple but the minds of the people tended towards duplicity.

The Second Commandment: Its Intention

Think about this commandment for a moment. In the first section of the ten words we are directed to honor our Lord. Our instruction begins with the stern word to Honor His Person...we are to have no one before Him. While we understand that basic meaning, we need further amplification on how to avoid the "rival god" situations. So to give a more concrete basis we are emphatically told that we are to elevate no man-made idol or image of anything to the realm of deity.

We are not to make any image that is intended for worship and that might thereby become a substitute in worship. Exodus 20:4 does not condemn all sculpture, painting, bas-relief, etc. The very tabernacle where Israel worshipped had the cherubim-interwoven vail and the likenesses of these graced the ark of the covenant in the Most Holy Place. Solomon would later mount the great sea on molten bulls and the very means of healing in Numbers 21 was the brazen serpent. Therefore art was not wrong in itself but when binding itself to rival worship it was wickedly wrong. The Lord's command is to avoid bringing anything to the forefront for the purpose of worship. Its source is less important but the usage is determinative of right and wrong.

The great danger lies somewhat in our inability or unwillingness to distinguish cause and effect. We easily confuse these things and far too often give the thanks to the effect rather than the cause. Thus men easily forgot the Creator and worshipped the Creation. The one they could see and