



The Sin of Idolatry (Part 2)

One would think that those who profess to believe in the God of the Bible wouldn't practice idolatry; however, it is commonly practiced among the Catholic Church. Not too long ago, I visited a Cathedral in Brazil. In this Cathedral, there was a carved wooden image of "Mary" that had been found in a river several hundred years ago (evidently someone had made this statue and then tossed it into the river as rubbish). The entire Cathedral was built near the site of this image on account of this event. Inside the Cathedral, the image had an honored place. Members of the Catholic Church there had placed on its head a crown and a robe. There was a security guard near the image to protect it.

The whole scene reminded me of the words of the Old Testament prophets as they exposed the folly of idolatry. Habakkuk wrote, "Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it" (Habakkuk 2:19). Isaiah said, "They that make a graven image are all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they are their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed ... And none considereth in his heart, neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say, I have burned

part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten it: and shall I make the residue thereof an abomination? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?" (Isaiah 44:9-19).

There are also those who seek to defend such practices. They suggest that they are not actually worshipping these things, merely "venerating" them. In-



deed, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states regarding these idols:

The Christian veneration of images is not contrary to the first commandment which proscribes idols. Indeed, "the honor rendered to an image passes to its prototype," and "whoever venerates an image venerates the person portrayed in it." The honor paid to sacred images is a "respectful veneration," not the adoration due to God alone ... Religious worship is not directed to images in themselves, considered as

mere things, but under their distinctive aspect as images leading us on to God incarnate. The movement toward the image does not terminate in it as image, but tends toward that whose image it is.

Evidently the Catholics need to learn the second commandment because that one states, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." And they also need to learn the second part of the second commandment because that states, "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me" (Exodus 20:4-5). Did God say, "except if your worship is REALLY directed toward me?" Did God say, "except if the image is of me and you're not really worshipping it in your own heart?" Did God say, "except if your worship doesn't terminate in the image?" In fact, he said just the opposite in Isaiah 42:8, "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." God does not give His glory to graven images, ever!

What did the prophets say? Hear Isaiah: "They that make a

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graven image are all of them vanity" (Isaiah 44:9a). All graven images are VANITY! "Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing?" (Isaiah 44:10) All graven images are profitable FOR NOTHING! Hear what Jeremiah has to say, "Every man is brutish in his knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them (Jeremiah 10:14 and 51:17). They are falsehoods! Hear Habakkuk, "What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?" (Habakkuk 2:18). They are no profit; they are teachers of lies. What does Paul say? "... we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one" (1 Corinthians 8:4). They are nothing! There is

only ONE God. The plain teaching of scripture utterly refutes the Catholic rationalization for having "images."

So why have graven images at all? There can only be one reason. To satisfy the fleshly desire to have something that one can see and touch. This is exactly what the people of Israel desired after they came out of Egypt.

When Moses was up in the mountain for forty days, Aaron made a golden calf. Exodus 32:4-5 state, "And he received [the gold] at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD." Aaron made an idol. He proclaimed that idol the gods that brought them out of Egypt. He then said that the next day there would

be a feast to the LORD. Aaron did exactly what the Catholics claim to do today. He made an idol and then proposed to worship God through the idol. But what did God say about this? God said that they had corrupted themselves (Exodus 32:7) and that they had turned aside from the commandment (Exodus 32:8). It was sinful then and it is sinful now.

In next week's article we will look at other forms of idolatry. The sin of idolatry isn't limited to carved images. There are many other things that we can place as idols in our hearts.

Kevin Cauley

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

(Deuteronomy 6:4-5).



Bible Studies for the week of November 11th, 2005

AM Sermon..... “Gimme”
 Scripture Reading..... James 4:1-10
 PM Sermon..... Eddie Cloer
 Scripture Reading..... TBA
 Sunday Class The Book of Matthew
 Wednesday Class..... The Book of Zephaniah

Kevin's Korner

Someone told me the other day that misfortunate things always come in threes. He was referring to the fact that my dishwasher and then water heater had gone out one week after the next and then wondering what would come next. Well, the answer is, the microwave. Yes, our microwave suddenly stopped working in the midst of heating up a cup of water for some tea. I guess it just decided it was tired of heating things up. We had a somewhat prescience that this was going to occur when the light bulb went out in it a few weeks ago. We considered trying to see if someone could fix it but we figured as cheap as microwaves are by the time someone fixed it we could easily afford a new one. Moreover, the one we have has definitely aged and truth be told there is no telling how much longer it would last anyway. And as one excuse is as

good as any, we're now shopping for a new microwave.

This past Friday, Charlie had a veterans day assembly at the lower elementary. He sang in the choir. It is certainly a blessing to be living in a country in which we have the great freedoms that we have. I'm thankful to God for those men and women who are willing to serve our nation against those who would act to oppress the human race. God has ordained government for exactly these purposes (see Romans 13:1-6 and 1 Peter 2:13-17). Yet the concept of government has no legs without individual people who offer to serve in it. And as part of the God given mission of the government is to "bear the sword" there must be some individuals who are willing to do such work. It is those individuals that we honor when they do that work with honor and dignity. There are those who may disagree with the

decisions that those in government make, but we never ought to transfer our disagreement to those who are defending us with their own lives. Thank you, veterans, for your service and thank God that He has given us government under which we can live and be at peace with one another.

Wilma has submitted some more poetry to me and I will be publishing some of that in the bulletin soon. But I would also like to open the bulletin up to any suggestions that you might have for articles, snippets, or other works. If such reflect biblical principles, I would love to run them. The only thing that I ask is that you write them down and give them to me. I have a harder time keeping up with things that I am simply told, but if they are written down I tend to do a little better at remembering. So, start sending in the suggestions!



"Thank you, veterans, for your service and thank God that He has given us government under which we can live and be at peace with one another."

Records for the week of November 6th, 2005

Sunday Bible Class	53
Sunday AM Worship.....	61
Sunday PM Worship.....	46
Wednesday Night Study.....	53
Contribution.....	\$1492.77
Budget.....	\$1662.00



Praises, Prayers, and Proclamations

Announcements

- We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!
- Please pray for the following individuals: Vaughn Farmer, Bill Fort, Trish Foster, Brian Guess, Opal Hull, Raymond Kimes.
- Our third Sunday potluck will be next Sunday afternoon, November 20th. I hope everyone will plan on being with us. Perhaps you could invite a friend to come with you that day?
- Our weekly Bible study at the nursing home will continue this week on Thursday at 2:00 with Luke 5. We hope you can attend.
- Tonight we will be putting together the House to House publication for mail out. Please make plans to attend and help with this work.
- Holiday Party: We are going to have a holiday party at the Smith's this year. They are still looking at dates, but they said early in December! So, be prepared. I'm looking forward to it!
- Our pantry item is: Pickles.

God's Salvation Plan

1. **Hear** the Gospel—Romans 10:17
2. **Believe** on the Lord & His Word—Mark 16:16; John 8:24
3. **Repent** of your sins—Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
4. **Confess** Christ—Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9
5. **Be Baptized** for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27
6. Live a **faithful**, dedicated life—Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-10

Welcome!

Visit our web site: <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com>

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:20 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class:	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:	7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

	Nov. 13th, 2005	Nov. 20th, 2005
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Barrett Brown	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Clay Bozarth
Scripture Reading:	Perry Foster	Matthew Morrell
Lord's Table	John Gass	Leon Duncan
(assist)	Glenn Quigley	Ken Smith
	Bruce Foster	Jerry Roller
	Ray Duncan	Michael Morrell
Closing Prayer	Ervin Hand	Glenn Quigley
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Glenn Williams
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Rusty Windle
Scripture Reading:	Rusty Windle	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table	George Eddings	Jerry Roller
	Jack Gentry	Dale Pinkley
Closing Prayer	Glenn Quigley	Dan Hand
Wednesday		
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Barrett Brown
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	George Eddings
Invitation:	Rusty Windle	Kevin Cauley
Closing Prayer:	John Gass	Dale Pinkley

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