

The Good Life:

(2) No Images of the Living God

(A brief devotional guide)

Summarize and remind yourself each day the central message you heard from God through the sermon Sunday:



Read daily the Heartfelt Confession (Heidelberg Catechism)

Lord's Day 35, Q/A 96 and 97

Q: What is God's will for us in the second commandment?

A: That we in no way make any image of God nor worship him in any other way than has been commanded in God's Word.

Q: May we then not make any image at all?

A: God can not and may not be visibly portrayed in any way.

Pray humbly and expectantly for God to speak to you through God's Word today.

Read and Reflect upon the Daily Scripture Readings.

"What is one thing you hear God's Word say to you through in these verses today?" Summarize this hearing and apply it to your life today.

Monday: Exodus 32:1-10

Tuesday: Isaiah 40:18-31

Wednesday: John 1:1-18

Thursday: Colossians 1:3-20

Friday: Hebrews 12:14-29

Saturday: Revelation 1:9-20

Offer your prayers of Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving and Request to God.

Additional Reading for the Week:

The biblical-theological principle . . . is that we resemble what we revere, either for ruin or restoration. [The rare person in Old Testament Israel] wanted to revere the Lord and reflected his holiness, whereas Israel revered its idols and reflected their spiritual blindness and deafness, resulting in ruin.

Idolaters...had become as spiritually blind and deaf as their idols."

G. K. Beale, We Become What We Worship (2008)

Although gods and idols are *something* in the world, they are *nothing* in comparison to the living God. . . . They are the work of human [minds and] hands, constructs of our own fallen and rebellious nature.

The primal problem with idolatry is that it blurs the distinction between the Creator God and the creation. This both damages creation (including ourselves) and diminishes the glory of the Creator.

Since God's mission is to restore creation to its full original purpose of bringing all glory to God himself and thereby to enable all creation to enjoy the fullness of blessing that he desires for it, God battles against all forms of idolatry and calls us to join him in that conflict.

Christopher J. H. Wright, The Mission of God (2006)