

Westminster Shorter Catechism Study

Session 23

The First Commandment

Whom Shall we Worship?

Q. 45. Which is the first commandment?

A. The first commandment is, Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Q. 46. What is required in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

Q. 47. What is forbidden in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment forbiddeth the denying, or not worshiping and glorifying, the true God as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to him alone.

Q. 48. What are we specially taught by these words before me in the first commandment?

A. These words before me in the first commandment teach us, that God, who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God.

Review Question - *What is the "three-fold use" of the Law?*

1)

2)

3)

Exodus 20:3 " You shall have no other gods before Me.

Psalm 135:15 The idols of the nations are silver and gold, The work of men's hands.

16 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see;

17 They have ears, but they do not hear; Nor is there any breath in their mouths

18 Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.

1 Cor. 8:4 Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.

Matthew 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

Is. 45:20 "Assemble yourselves and come; Draw near together, You who have escaped from the nations. They have no knowledge, Who carry the wood of their carved image, And pray to a god that cannot save.

21 Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.

22 "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

23 I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath.

24 He shall say, 'Surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength. To Him men shall come, And all shall be ashamed Who are incensed against Him.

25 In the LORD all the descendants of Israel Shall be justified, and shall glory.' "

Psalms 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Psalms 81:10 I am the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

11 "But My people would not heed My voice, And Israel would have none of Me.

Ezek. 8:16 So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house; and there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the sun toward the east.

17 And He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the branch to their nose.

18 "Therefore I also will act in fury. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them."

Deut. 30:17 "But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them,
 18 "I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess.

Questions:

- 1) To have God to be a God to us is to acknowledge him for a God. What does this mean about the nature of all other Gods?
 - 2) What is meant by the words, "Before me"?
 - 3) To have God to be a God to us is to choose him. What do you think Thomas Watson meant when he said *"Religion is not a matter of chance, but choice?"*
 - 4) To have God to be a God to us, is to enter into solemn covenant with Him, that he shall be our God. God frequently compares this solemn covenant with another kind of solemn covenant; what is it and what does that comparison teach us?
 - 5) To have God to be a God to us, is to give him adoration: which consists in reverencing him: 'God is to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.' Psa 89: 7. What does "reverence for God" look like in your life?
 - 6) To have God to be a God to us, is to fear him. What does it mean to fear God?
- "To have God to be a God to us, is to trust in him. 'Mine eyes are unto thee, O God the Lord: in thee is my trust.' Psa 141: 8. 'The God of my rock, in him will I trust.' 2 Sam 22: 3. There is none in whom we can trust but God. All creatures are a refuge of lies; they are like the Egyptian reed, too weak to support us, but strong enough to wound us. 2 Kings 18: 21" – Thomas Watson
- 7) How do we show we trust God?

8) To have God to be a God to us, is to love him. Is it possible to be a Christian without loving God?

Use one. If we must have the Lord Jehovah for our one God, it condemns the Atheists who have no God. 'The fool has said in his heart, There is no God.' Psa 14: 1. (p.53)

Use two. Christians are condemned who profess to own God for their God and yet do not live as if he were their God.

- (1) They do not believe in him as a God. When they look upon their sins, they are apt to say, Can God pardon? When they look upon their wants, they say, Can God provide, can he prepare a table in the wilderness?
- (2) They do not love him as a God. They do not give him the cream of their love, but are prone to love other things more than God; they say they love God, but will part with nothing for him.
- (3) They do not worship him as God. They do not give him that reverence, nor pray with that devotion, as if they were praying to a God. – Thomas Watson

9) To trust in any thing more than God, is to make it a god.

WHAT ARE THE THINGS WE TRUST IN?

10) To love any thing more than God, is to make it a god.

WHAT ARE THE THINGS WE ARE PRONE TO LOVE MORE THAN GOD?