

# CONNECT

bella vista baptist church

Sunday, September 14, 2025



## WORSHIP

commandment two

### Exodus 20:1-6

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."

### The BIG Idea

God is to be worshiped for who God is, not what we *image*-ine Him to be.

### Introduction

The First Commandment prohibits worship of anything other than God. The Second Commandment prohibits the worship of any version of God that is less than God, e.g., carved images or any likeness of anything.

The Second Commandment sounds simple enough, but how many images flash through your mind every day demanding your attention (think this way), your obedience (do this thing or buy this product), and your worship (devote yourself to this)?

Yes, the Second Commandment is still relevant not only to remind us of the danger of worshipping something less than God, but also to remind us of who God is and why He alone is worthy of our full hearted devotion.

### Verses for Meditation

Psalm 115:1-8

Hebrews 12:5-11

Colossians 1:15-20

### Questions for Reflection

How has this Sunday's consideration of the Second Commandment affected how you understand its relevance in your life today?

In what ways are the images of the digital age demanding your attention (think this way), your obedience (do this thing or buy this product), and your worship (devote yourself to this)? How can these demands lead you away from devotion to God?

Brent talked about us being sensory beings who connect to and find comfort in what we see, hear, smell, taste, and touch, as well as being sinful beings who tend to imagine God the way we want Him to be. What kinds of things might become idols to us by seeking comfort and assurance in them rather than God?

Read Psalm 115:1-8. Why do the idols we pursue for comfort and assurance in the end leave us comfortless and unassured? Why do we keep going back to them?

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit [*the spirit God is, the Holy Spirit*] and truth [*the reality of who God says He is*]" (John 4:24). What is the importance of the Bible in worshiping God according to who He is?

How had God demonstrated His steadfast love for His people from Egypt to Mt Sinai? How has He demonstrated His steadfast love in your life?

Read Hebrews 12:5-11. What does God's discipline tell us about His love for us?

Why does how we worship God matter for the generations that follow us?

Read Colossians 1:15-20. Why do we not need carved statues or images to know God?

### Hymn: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Helen Howarth Lemmel (1863-1961)

O soul, are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There's light for a look at the Savior,  
And life more abundant and free.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
look full in His wonderful face.  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
in the light of his glory and grace.