

MONDAY *September 8* **Idolatry and Evil**

Read Exodus 32:6. Where did their idolatry quickly lead them? (*See also Ps. 115:4-8; Ps. 135:15-18; Isa. 44:9, 10.*)

6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

The golden calf resembled the Egyptian bull-god, called Apis, or cow-god, called Hathor. This was a blatant transgression of the first and second commandments (*Exod. 20:3-6*). This violation could not go unpunished because it openly broke their relationship with the living Lord. Instead of worshiping their Creator, the Israelites worshiped their own creation, which could not see, hear, smell, speak, care, love, or lead.

The Creation order was reversed: instead of understanding that they had been created in God's image, they now made a god, not even in their own image—which would have been bad enough—but *in the image of an animal*. This was the god whom they wanted to serve? Thus, they had greatly sinned against the Lord (*Isa. 31:7; Isa. 42:17*).

In what ways does the golden calf apostasy reflect what is written in Romans 1:22-27?

Idolatry denies the theological understanding that God is God and man is man. Idolatry erases the gap between God and man (*Eccles. 5:2*) and breaks the connection with Him. Whether it is blatant and open or something concealed in the heart, idolatry quickly ruptures our relationship with the Lord and leads toward a downward moral spiral. No wonder the text talks about what they did the next day: after offering sacrifices to the idol, they then began to party, in what Ellen G. White depicted as "an imitation of the idolatrous feasts of Egypt."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 320.

Humans are geniuses at fabricating their own idols. They create their own gods, which is bad enough, but then they go and serve those gods. The Creator is replaced with things that, sooner or later, lead to moral degeneration.

What are ways today that humans worship the creation instead of the Creator?

CARS WERE MY IDOL WITH I WAS A YOUNG MAN — THEY GAVE ME FREEDOM,
AN IMAGE, AND MADE ME FEEL LIKE I HAD WORTH:

I OWNED A NUMBER OF MUSCLE CARS IN MY TEEN AGE YEARS:

A 1966 PONTIAC GTO

A 1970 FORD MUSTANG

MY REAL IDOL WAS A 1973 CHEVY CAMARO — NEVER LET THAT CAR STAY
DIRTY — PUT TONS OF MONEY INTO IT — WHEELS, LUVERS, SEAT COVERS,
ENGINE, PAINT, TIME.

IDOLS FOLLOW US IN SPITE OF OUR EXPERIENCE GOD. THE BIGGEST
IDOLS IN OUR CHURCH TODAY ARE OUR OPINIONS, THEORIES, FALSE
DOCTRINES. LISTEN TO THIS:

IN REJECTING THE TRUTH, MEN REJECT ITS AUTHOR. IN TRAMPLING UPON
THE LAW OF GOD, THEY DENY THE AUTHORITY OF THE LAWGIVER. IT IS
AS EASY TO MAKE AN IDOL OF FALSE DOCTRINES AND THEORIES AS TO
FASHION AN IDOL OF WOOD OR STONE. BY MISREPRESENTING THE
ATTRIBUTES OF GOD, SATAN LEADS MEN TO CONCEIVE OF HIM IN A FALSE
CHARACTER. WITH MANY, A PHILOSOPHICAL IDOL IS ENTHRONED IN THE
PLACE OF JEHOVAH; WHILE THE LIVING GOD, AS HE IS REVEALED IN HIS
WORD, IN CHRIST, AND IN THE WORKS OF CREATION, IS WORSHIPED BY
BUT FEW. THOUSANDS DEIFY NATURE, WHILE THEY DENY THE GOD OF
NATURE. THOUGH IN A DIFFERENT FORM, IDOLATRY EXISTS IN THE
CHRISTIAN WORLD TODAY AS VERILY AS IT EXISTED AMONG ANCIENT
ISRAEL IN THE DAYS OF ELIJAH. THE GOD OF MANY PROFESSEDLY WISE

MEN, OF PHILOSOPHERS, POETS, POLITICIANS, JOURNALISTS,—THE GOD OF POLISHED FASHIONABLE CIRCLES, OF MANY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, EVEN OF SOME THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS,—IS LITTLE BETTER THAN BAAL, THE SUN-GOD OF PHOENICIA. GC88 583.1

"NO ERROR ACCEPTED BY THE CHRISTIAN WORLD STRIKES MORE BOLDLY AGAINST THE AUTHORITY OF HEAVEN, NONE IS MORE DIRECTLY OPPOSED TO THE DICTATES OF REASON, NONE IS MORE PERNICIOUS IN ITS RESULTS, THAN THE MODERN DOCTRINE, SO RAPIDLY GAINING GROUND, THAT GOD'S LAW IS NO LONGER BINDING UPON MEN. EVERY NATION HAS ITS LAWS, WHICH COMMAND RESPECT AND OBEDIENCE; NO GOVERNMENT COULD EXIST WITHOUT THEM; AND CAN IT BE CONCEIVED THAT THE CREATOR OF THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH HAS NO LAW TO GOVERN THE BEINGS HE HAS MADE? SUPPOSE THAT PROMINENT MINISTERS WERE PUBLICLY TO TEACH THAT THE STATUTES WHICH GOVERN THEIR LAND AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF ITS CITIZENS WERE NOT OBLIGATORY,—THAT THEY RESTRICTED THE LIBERTIES OF THE PEOPLE, AND THEREFORE OUGHT NOT TO BE OBEYED; HOW LONG WOULD SUCH MEN BE TOLERATED IN THE PULPIT? BUT IS IT A GRAVER OFFENSE TO DISREGARD THE LAWS OF STATES AND NATIONS THAN TO TRAMPLE UPON THOSE DIVINE PRECEPTS WHICH ARE THE FOUNDATION OF ALL GOVERNMENT? GC88 583.2

WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE GOD'S LAW REJECTED OR DESPISED BY THE SECULAR WORLD, BUT WHEN THE PROFESSED CHRISTIAN WORLD

TREAT GODS LAW IN THE SAME WAY AS THE SECULAR WORLD. WHEN IN THE CHURCH PROFESSING TO BE UNDER GOD WE DISTAIN HIS LAW. WHEN EVEN IN THE SDA CHURCH WE OPEN THE DOOR FOR THE BREAKING OF THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT - THOUGH SHALT NOT KILL BY ALLOWING ABORTION IN OUR HOSPITALS OR THE 7TH COMMANDMENT - THOUS SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY BY ALLOWING THE LGBTQ+ A FOOT HOLD IN OUR UNIVERSITIES WE HAVE TAKEN OURSELVES OUT FROM UNDER THE GOD'S LEADERSHIP AND ARE NOW FOLLOWING IDOLS AS TRULY AS WERE THOSE WHO WORSHIPED AT THE ALTARS OF BAAL.

1 CORINTHIANS 8 - SOLOMON - WISE IN OUR OWN EYES - WE THINK THAT WE CAN NAVIGATE THE ISSUES OF THIS WORLD - REACH THE WORLD AS SOLOMON THOUGHT HE COULD DO - WE THINK THAT WE ARE WISE LIKE SOLOMON THOUGHT THAT HE WAS WISE - TO AVOID FALLING INTO IDOLATRY - BOTTOM LINE IS THAT GOD IS OUR WISDOM - CHRIST CALLS US TO FOLLOW HIM CLOSELY, WHEREVER HE GOES ESPECIALLY IN THESE LAST DAYS.

