

## *Deuteronomy Chapter 12: 2-3*

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V: 2-3 Destroy everything associated with pagan worship, eliminate all other forms of worship, make no allowance for any competing gods.

- Why would God demand the destruction of all these things, even their names?
- He knows that we'd get curious or that we being weak and foolish could possibly be drawn in and led down the wrong path, which would eventually lead to destruction.

**Romans 6:23**      “The wages of sin is death...”

- Destroying these things is then the best protection against contamination, defilement, or seduction.

**Ephesians 4:27**      “Neither give place to the devil.”

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**Genesis 31:30-36** Jacob flees from his father in law Laban, who pursues after him and accuses him of stealing his gods.

- Jacob doesn't know that his favorite wife Rachel has swiped her father's gods but he must suspect something either of her or of his servants:
- Jacob gets past his uncle Laban, and past his brother Esau – during which time he wrestles or struggles with God – and enters into a personal relationship with God and ends up getting his name changed to Israel – governed by God.

**Genesis 35** – Jacob and family arrive in Beth-El, the house of God. In preparing to worship God by building an altar and offering sacrifices he tells his family:

1. Put away the strange God's among you.
  2. Be clean, purify yourselves.
  3. Change your garments.
- They end up giving Jacob all the strange gods, and the earrings which were in their ears – things that were somehow associated with the worship of these strange gods, and they buried them – which is what you do with dead things, then they moved on.
1. It was during the reading of this account during our family Bible studies that we stopped and decided to do what Jacob did.
  2. As a family we went through our home and looked at every thing we had and considered what it represented; we went through our movie collection, our books, our toys, art work – you name it. We were determined to root out anything of a pagan nature whatsoever.

3. The books that weren't edifying or portraying ungodly things we went and dunked in our pool to wreck them, then thru them away.
4. The movies / videos were destroyed under the chop saw and tossed.
5. Some of the toys and figurines and so forth were smashed with hammers.
6. We didn't want any vestige of these things in our homes and we didn't want anyone else to be able to use read, watch, or use them.
7. I would encourage all of you to do the same thing, examine the things in your home and take whatever action you deem necessary as you pursue after holiness.
  - My favorite Bible illustration of this is found in **Exodus 32:20**.

**Exodus 32:20** “And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.”

- The fervor and passion, the radical way of dealing with sin.
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- Mike Veneman used the illustration from the movie Fire Proof about the guy having internet issues, not relying on a filter – taking the computer and chucking it in the trash, then coming back with a baseball bat and destroying it – there was definitely a finality to his actions.
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**1 Samuel 15** - King Saul: told to smite the Amalekites and utterly destroy all they had, spare not man or woman, infant, suckling, ox, sheep, camel, ass.

- Saul leads a large army in victory – but comes back with the spoils of battle and with cattle and prisoners, including Agag the king of the Amalekites.
- Saul was disobedient to what God had commanded him to do, he didn't utterly destroy all the people or the stuff.

**1 Samuel 15:11** “It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following Me, and hath not performed my commandments.”

- These weren't necessarily their objects of worship; the issue being illustrated here is obedience to God's commands, the issue of objects of worship are even more detestable and dangerous.

What are the repercussions of Saul's disobedience?

1. Saul lost his kingdom.
2. Saul lost his mind – went crazy when eventually chasing David around.

3. Saul was estranged from his family, namely his son Jonathan.
  4. Saul lost his life, having let some Amalekites live, an Amalekite eventually kills him.
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- In Jerusalem today just to the South East of the temple mount where the Kidron Valley and the valley of Gehenna meet there is a little mountain called the Mount of Destruction.
  - It was on this mountain, hill really that eventually Solomon built altars to other gods, the gods of his wives and made sacrifices there. It is called the Mount of destruction because it was there that the seeds were sown in the nation that would lead to their fall into idolatry – which led to their destruction.
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- 1967 Israel captured Jerusalem during the 6 day war, including the Temple mount. The IDF planted explosives all around the Dome of the Rock Mosque and intended to blow it up when Moshe Dayan intervened.
  - They were going to remove the symbol of Islam from off the Temple mount and rid it of its pagan influence – yet they didn't and it has been a thorn in their side ever since.
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- Utterly destroy, overthrow, break, burn, hew down, destroy even their names.
- They are not even to be spoken of.
- Much of the pagan worship then as today is focused on the capacity of man to procreate, upon man's reproductive capabilities (given by God). Seemingly the power of creation, to create new life.

God created that capacity, He ordained it within the confines of marriage.

- This is indeed an awesome thing, not completely understood by man, a wondrous thing!
- Whenever you hold a new baby in your arms, eyes darting about, or the peaceful look of them sleeping, little fingers and toes reaching out taking hold of everything within their reach.
- Here is this new life with so much potential, and we realize this tremendous capacity that God has given to us, to bring forth new life.
- Those without the understanding of God or an appreciation for the gift will always worship the created things as opposed to the creator Himself.

- Often times these same people will worship the instruments of reproduction; the male reproductive organ carved into trees or statues, their groves and pillars. A woman's breast which can bring nourishment and life to a child is featured prominently upon the statues of the pagan goddess known as Dianna or Ashteroth, featuring a multi-breasted woman which they bow down to and worship.
  - God says destroy all these things, you are not them to be involved in these sorts of things.
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- This is also a picture of dealing with sin, violently and thoroughly.

**Romans 13:14** “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lust thereof.”

Jesus advocates violence when dealing with sin:

**Matthew 5:29-30** “<sup>29</sup>And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.”

- If need be deal violently with those things that cause us to sin!

Often times it is various relationships that cause us to stumble:

**1 Corinthians 15:33** “Be not deceived: evil company corrupts good manners / habits.”

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18** “<sup>14</sup>Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? <sup>15</sup>And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? <sup>16</sup>And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>17</sup>Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, <sup>18</sup>and I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

- We need to be wholly devoted to Him.
- This passage is about dealing with sin and the instruments of sin.
- There is only one way to deal with it Biblically – that is to repent of it and ask God's forgiveness.

**Romans 5:8** “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

**1 John 1:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

**Romans 10:9-10** “<sup>9</sup>That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

- Why destroy all this stuff?
- Because He wants us to come to Him!
- He desires fellowship with us, that can only happen if we come to Him humbly through His Son Jesus!