

**The Christian Pilgrimage – Pictures of Salvation and Heaven.**

**This week** – A new series of lessons teaching us about how to live now, anticipating Heaven.

*“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image (idol, other gods) ... Thou shalt not bow down to them, nor serve them.”* *Exodus 20v4,5.*

**Bible Readings for this week:**

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Exodus 32v1-10 (The people demand an idol for their god)	
Monday	Exodus 3v11-20 (The Holy God is Angry)	
Tuesday	Exodus 32v21-35 (Moses is also Rightly Angry)	
Wednesday	Hebrews 11v23-29 (Moses rejected Egypt’s pleasures)	
Thursday	Psalms 106v1-21 (They forgot God their Saviour)	
Friday	Psalms 135v1-21 (Praise ye the Lord, not idols)	
Saturday	Philippians 4v1-13 (We have Joy only in Jesus Christ)	

**Important Question for us Today:** Is God against our having fun and enjoying ourselves?

The answer is emphatically **NO**, He wants us to enjoy Him and His peace. He created us as human beings with a soul to enjoy Him in this life and throughout eternity. Part of our soul enables us to have a sense of humour and an ability to experience deep joy and happiness. A walk with God (through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord) is the only way we can experience true Christian joy, love, real and lasting happiness, peace, contentment, and good, honest pleasure, etc. See **Philippians 4v8**. The Lord’s 10 Commandments are given for our benefit and not to spoil our fun. The first 5 are couched positively – *‘Thou shalt ...’*, the last 5 are couched negatively – *‘Thou shalt not ...’* **BUT all of them are for our good**. Firstly, to understand God’s holy standard - to show us that we are sinners needing repentance and forgiveness. Secondly, having been forgiven, and with His help to keep them, we will live happier lives now. A foretaste of Heaven.

**Remember, the chief end (purpose) of man is to love God and to enjoy Him for ever. Is this your aim?**

**Hymn 521 - a close walk with the Lord will help us avoid committing the sins of this evil world.**

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| <p>1. O for a closer walk with God,<br/>A calm and heavenly frame,<br/>A light to shine upon the road<br/>That leads me to the Lamb!</p> <p>2. Where is the blessedness I knew<br/>When first I saw the Lord?<br/>Where is the soul-refreshing view<br/>Of Jesus and His Word?</p> | <p>4. Return, O holy Dove, return,<br/>Sweet messenger of rest!<br/>I hate the sins that made thee mourn,<br/>And drove thee from my breast.</p> <p>5. The dearest idol I have known,<br/>Whate'er that idol be,<br/>Help me to tear it from Thy throne,<br/>And worship only Thee.</p> |
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*EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet*

*This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.*

## The Golden Calf – A Man Made Idol.

● **The Children of Israel Knew Fully the Care and Blessing of God.**

- The Lord had rescued them from a life of misery and slavery in Egypt leading them to Canaan, the Promised Land, full of plenty and God’s rich blessing.
- Moses and Joshua were called to meet with God at Mount Sinai to be given the **10 Commandments**; God’s holy Law which brings peace to all who obey it.
- **But** the people became bored of waiting, quickly forgetting all that the Lord and Moses had done for them, persuading Aaron to make a ‘god’ of gold.

● **The Cost of exchanging God’s blessings for Immediate Sinful Pleasures.**

- **They wasted all their gold and energy to make this useless ‘god’.**
  - They wanted a ‘god of their own’, an impotent idol, which would not, and could not, demand holiness and obedience - but it cost them all their energy and goods.
  - The gods of this world are costly stealing our honesty, self-respect, chastity, loyalty.
- **They Sold their Entire Future for YOLO - “You Only Live Once”.**
  - ‘Live now, ignore God, do as we please, enjoy sin, experiment with evil things.’
  - We must avoid the world’s sinful pleasures – gaming, discos, clubbing, drinking, drugs etc.
- **Short Term Selfish Gain Which Brought Eternal Consequences.**
  - Morning came bringing shame and regret. They had no peace with their conscience, or God, and no lasting joy or pleasure - leading to eternal judgement after death.
  - When we throw away our self-control sin takes over and ruins everything.
  - Many people suffer depression due to the unhappiness that wilful sin brings as they deliberately go against their conscience, where God’s law is ‘written’.

● **The Consequences.**

- **God’s Law is Broken** - Moses symbolically broke the tablets that God’s Law was written on - to show the gravity of their sin and their broken relationship with God.
- **Enemies of God** - this attitude of enmity towards God shows that we wilfully reject God and do not want His rule over us. We naturally choose to live as enemies of God.
- **God Must Judge** - This wilful breaking of God’s perfect law and rejection of Him as Lord deserves His holy and righteous punishment - banished from Him for all eternity.

● **Yet in God’s Mercy and Grace He Provides a Saviour!**

- This incident shows us the true nature and ugliness of our attitude to a Holy God. As rebels we do not want to, nor can we, bring ourselves to be right with God.
- Yet in great love the Lord Jesus came to bear the eternal punishment of our sin. He, who had no sin, bore the punishment of every impure, unclean act and thought that we have done. To be saved, we must bow before Him in repentance and faith.

**Will we reject such a Saviour, just for a present, fleeting, selfish, sinful life?**

**The Apostle John wrote, “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are, and were created.”** *Revelation 4v11.*