



# Ten.Com

Number 2:  
Exodus  
20: 4

***You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.***



## no idols



***When I was a kid I used to think "How stupid, who would ever bow down to a statue?" Today, living in the same area, most of the shops have idols or pictures of them in their windows.***

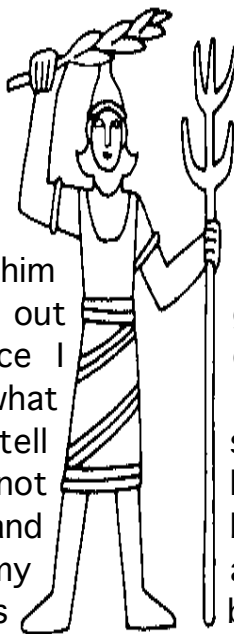
***The following passage is from  
Isaiah 44: 6-20***

"This is what the LORD says-- Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come--yes, let him foretell what will come. Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one."

All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless. Those who would speak up for them are blind; they are ignorant, to their own shame. Who shapes a god and casts an idol, which can profit him nothing? He and his kind will be put to shame; craftsmen are nothing but men. Let them all come together and take their stand; they will be brought down to terror and infamy. The blacksmith takes a tool and works with it in the coals;

he shapes an idol with hammers, he forges it with the might of his arm. He gets hungry and loses his strength; he drinks no water and grows faint. The carpenter measures with a line and makes an outline with a marker; he roughs it out with chisels and marks it with compasses. He shapes it in the form of man, of man in all his glory, that it may dwell in a shrine. He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak. He let it grow among the trees of the forest, or planted a pine, and the rain made it grow. It is man's fuel for burning; some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a fire and bakes bread. But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it. Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares

his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm; I see the fire." From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, "Save me; you are my god." They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so that they cannot see, and their minds closed so that they cannot understand. No-one stops to think, no-one has the knowledge or understanding to say, "Half of it I used



for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?" He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, "Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?"

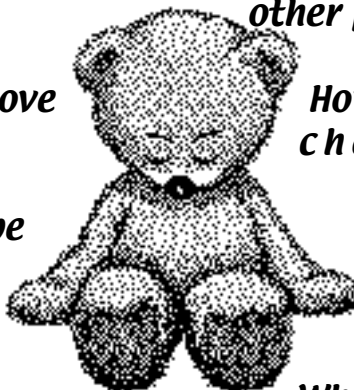
***being alright and not?***

***What about things which become idols not related to a religion***

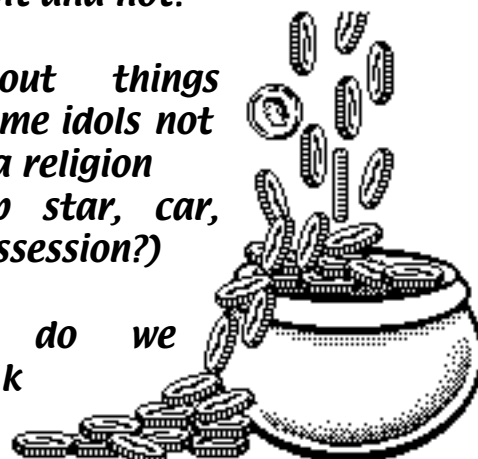
***(e.g. pop star, car, other possession?)***

***Thinking about the above passage:***

- ***How does God describe idols here?***
- ***What is an idol?***
- ***What good can an idol do/be?***



***How do we check***



***whether something has become an idol for us?***

***What should we do about it if it has??***

***Clearly idols based on other religions are wrong, but are there idols based on Christianity? What about:***

- ***icons of saints***
- ***icons of Virgin Mary***
- ***crucifixes***
- ***images of the cross***

***This commandment is very similar to the first. Between them God says to us:***

- ***I am God***
- ***nothing else must be god to you***
- ***no image must be worshipped either to represent Me or another 'god'.***

***Are any or all of these***

- ***alright?***
- ***sometimes alright?***

***What makes the difference between***



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