

- Q50. What is required in the second commandment?
A50. **The second commandment requires the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his Word.**

Deuteronomy 12:32, 32:46, Matthew 28:20, Acts 2:42

- DQ1: What does the Second Commandment require us to do?
DQ2: How does the Second Commandment requires us to keep it?
DQ3: How could we keep the Second Commandment purely and entirely?

Please read Deuteronomy 13.

- DQ4: What is Deuteronomy 13 warn about?
DQ5: According to Deuteronomy 13, where does the enticement of idol worship come from?
DQ6: According to Deuteronomy 13, how are we to treat the enticers?
DQ7: What are to do with idols that are in our houses or that are possessed by us?
DQ8: What will God do for those who keep God's commandment in Deuteronomy 13:17 – 18?

NOTES:

The Second Commandment requires us to keep “all such religious worship and ordinances.” The Word of God contains what God desires us to keep. And, whatever God has instituted must be kept without exception. This must be our starting point. We do not first ask whether or not we are capable of keeping God's commands but whether or not we are required to keep them.

What does it meant by “all such religious worship and ordinances”? Today, the use of the word “religious” or “religion” is often taken to mean something negative such as legalistic or formality devoid of meaning. But, it is important for us to use the word “religious” or “religion” in a correct, proper and Biblical way. So, here the phrase really means “all such proper and true religious worship and ordinances.” To put is another way, it is what God desires and how God desires us to accomplish what He desires. It also means that God does have a correct, proper and Biblical way for us to approach Him. And, it is incumbent upon God's people to keep God's commandment as He has directed us.

To be sure, we are not saved by our works, no matter how nobly and perfectly we perform our duties and fulfill our responsibilities. The import of our works is this. The Bible does teach us that such religious worship and ordinance keeping is required of God's people who have been redeemed. The reality is that such religious worship and ordinance cannot benefit those who are not redeemed. For the redeemed, keeping “all such religious worship and ordinances” amounts to obedience.

The Second Commandment also teaches us to keep it purely and entirely. Is it really possible? At first glance, it may not seem possible. But, the fact that God requires of it clearly tells us that it is entirely possible. Are you surprised? It is true that it is not possible entirely on our own. We need the help of God. We have been justified. It means that we have been declared to be righteous and God sees us as righteous. Therefore, as long as we remain in Jesus Christ, who is our righteousness, we will have the capacity to not only keep the Second Commandment but also all the rest of God's commands. What an awesome truth! To be sure, God's command cannot be wasted in any and will be fulfilled, even in us.

Go to Deuteronomy 13 and find out how much God hates idolatry and how serious of an offence it is to God for us to commit the sin of breaking this commandment.