

The Biblical Examiner

An Examination of the Biblical Principles Involved in Issues at Hand.

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THE STATE AS GOD

The coming famine

One of the most neglected and abused of the Ten Commandments is the first: *Thou shalt have no other gods before me*. In the modern state, these *other gods* assume many shapes and forms, but the primary *other god* is the state itself. We live in a rural community, and as the farmers in our area serve the state as god, the prospects of famine increase many fold.

One of the more obvious NT references to the first commandment is found in Paul's words, *when they knew God they honoured him not as God*, Romans 1:21. [Before we go any further, let us define Salvation as material and temporal prosperity and triumph in every area contrasted to the pagan idea of some kind of supernatural deliverance or escape.]

Now, let's identify some *other gods*:

First: Seeking individual salvation from any source other than faithfulness to the command-word of God is service to *other gods*.

In other words, serving *other gods* is defined as placing one's confidence for the present and/or future in education, secular counseling under whatever name it goes (psychology, psychiatry), job or financial security (Isa 46:6), one's own abilities, retirement programs (Isa 46:4) or any of a vast number of other gods served by the world around us, Deuteronomy 12:30. Certainly, there is nothing wrong in these things in and of themselves; the sin is when one's confidence for present or future provision is placed in these things rather than in obedience to *every word which proceedeth out of the mouth of God*.. (The obvious exception is when their stated purpose is to overthrow God, ie. Psychiatry.)

Second: For one to look anywhere for a standard of righteousness other than to God's commandments and statutes is serving other gods, Deuteronomy 6:24, 25. The law reveals God's standard of righteousness for His people. The promise of God is that doing what God defines as right in any given situation results in life, Galatians 2:16. (Righteous - *ethically right*, Gen 30:33; Pro 11:4, 5, 18, 19, &c.)

There is clearly a *righteousness which is of God by faith* in the Lord Jesus Christ which the Jews unsuccessfully sought after by the works of the law (but this is not our topic at this time), Philippians 3:9. On the

other hand, Paul, in Romans 6:19 (13:9), makes an obvious reference to the righteousness which comes by obedience to all the Lord's commandments (cf. Deut 6:25 & 1 Jn 3:4). Therefore, when someone says, "Do what you think or feel is best," or "Do whatever will work best for now," they have departed from the faith of the Scripture, Deuteronomy 6:18, (12:8. Gen. 3:1).

Other gods are served any time human reasoning, whether from an individual or a group of individuals (church board, state &c), is used to determine the correctness of any thought or action, Deuteronomy 13:1-11.

Third: Seeking any source for laws to provide salvation for society serves other gods. "The source of law is the god of a society." In other words, the idea that man can make a law, any combination of laws, or do anything that might originate in his mind, to solve his (society's) problems, denies the God of the Bible. God calls this a love of death, Proverbs 8:36. We cannot legislate morality; it has already been legislated for us by God. There is only one Lawmaker; therefore, any departure from His law makes man a law-breaker. All man is permitted to do is develop and apply what the Lawmaker has revealed. (Cf. Isa. 33:22; Ja. 4:12.)

In modern perspective, to think that the state (Washington, any nation or group of nations, ie. UN) can pass a law or series of laws which will solve societies' ills, is faith in another god; it is worship of the state as god on earth, statism, or *Moloch* worship.¹ A person is involved in statism any time he looks to the state to do or provide what only God is to do or provide. Thus, to look for the state to provide peace, security, education, child-care, welfare and an endless list of 'services,' is to establish the state as god, statism.

Statism sees all power flow inward to the centralized government; statism is Nimrod's dream reborn; statism claims total power and authority over everything (thus, requiring unlimited funds); statism is totalitarianism;

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statism has the same curse of God against it as did Nimrod's dream, civilization's death; statism is in action at all levels of society. For example:

