

**April 1, 2020**

**Commandment #1**

Today is April 1<sup>st</sup>, also known as April Fool's Day. It is a day when people, in a spirit of fun, play pranks on one another in an attempt to "fool" them. The term fool is used, because it is hoped that the person being fooled, lacks the wisdom and discernment to recognize they are being deceived. The Bible has much to say about the fool, especially in Proverbs, and gives many warnings against being a fool.

The greatest fool is found in Psalm 14:1 "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." and again in Psalm 53:1 "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good." The greatest fool is the one who denies the existence of God. In lesson 1 we learned that God has revealed Himself to all men through creation, through His Word and through His Son, so that all men are without excuse.

Notice that the fool denies God in His heart. It is not an outward denial, but an inward denial. Is it possible to be religious outwardly, while denying the true God inwardly? In II Timothy 3 Paul warns Timothy about the false teachers of the last days. He gives a list of characteristics of men in the last days. Read **II Timothy 3:1-7**. Notice especially verse 5, "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof..." Verse 7 says these individuals are "Ever learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

In Exodus 20:1-17 and again in Deuteronomy 5:6-21 we have recorded the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses and the children of Israel. The first commandment is "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." As we saw in lesson 1, there is only one true and living God, the God of the Bible. All other "gods" are only gods because we give them an exalted position in our lives. Anything that we place above the true God is a false god in our lives. False gods not only include man made idols and statues, but also money, business and pleasure. When we place other things ahead of God, we are guilty of idolatry and spiritual adultery. In essence, we are playing the part of the fool. Take time this week to do a spiritual inventory. What things in your life are or have the potential to be more important to you than God Himself? If you have played the part of the fool, take time to confess your sin and ask God to help you live the first commandment in your life.