

June 13<sup>th</sup>      **Number One:** Putting G-d First: Matt. 6:33, 34; Mic. 6:8; Deut. 30:11-20; Gen. 15:6 (faith); Gen. 18:18, 19 (obedience); Jer. 9:23, 24; Matt. 16:26

You shall have no other gods before Me (before My face) Exod. 20:3 The first of the four pillars of true devotion ( 1-4, G-d; 5 family; 6-10 others)

Our G-d is a jealous god for at least three reasons.

(1) There really are no other gods (I Cor. 8:4; Ex. 12:12; Jos. 2:11; Is. 43:10, 11), just spiritual corruption (Eph. 6:12) and fables (Rom. 1:18-32).

False concepts about G-d fall into three broad categories: polytheism (many gods), pantheism (everything is god), and deism/atheism (god is a force, a principle, not a person/there is no god – cosmic accident).

There are four pillars to our modern "scientific" society, which has rejected belief in the supernatural, but which is just another religious system: (i) materialism (ii) humanism (iii) evolutionism and (iv) relativism.

However, everyone has a concept of what is sacred, or holy - some sort of sacred explanation of the origin and meaning of life - even secular society and evolutionists: (i) beginning, (ii) fall (why we die and why we do bad things), (iii) redemption (solution), (iv) spiritual duty – morality, (v) end of the world, (vi) life after death – heaven.

(2) He wants our full spiritual allegiance so we can grow (concentrate) spiritually: faith (Gen. 15:6; Heb. 11:6) and obedience (Gen. 18:18, 19; Matt. 6:24; 6:33, 34; Deut. 6:4-9; Micah. 6:8; Deut. 30:11-20; Jer. 9:23, 24; Matt. 16:26)

(3) In light of eternity, every other kind of spiritual allegiance is a waste of time (I John 2:15-17; Eccl. 12:14; Matt. 16:26; I Cor. 4:5; 2 Cor. 4:18).

G-d wants to be first, because He was first. He does not want any other gods in His face – no other explanations, or religious duties.

Do you have any gods, any explanations, any duties, any hopes and fears in G-d's face?

Next week: worshipping the works of your hands.