



## Lesson I: Worshipping An Artistic God

### 1. Is it necessary?

first order living - the essentials of life  
second order living - enriched living  
you can't do the latter till the former is resolved.

Art and worship is a "second-order" consideration.

### 2. God And Beauty

Psalm 27:4 - *to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord.*  
God is beautiful. Beauty on earth, then, is a reflection of His holy beauty.

*We know God..... by the creation, preservation and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God.....*

(Belgic Confession article 2)

See also Psalm 19, 104

God desires beauty for humanity - Isaiah 61:3

Doing art is a part of obedient creational stewardship

- exploring beauty is a part of the sphere of reality called "*the arts*"
- it is part of "*fill the earth and subdue it....*" (Gen 1:28); see also Ps 8:6

Art contributes to the shalom which God desires for his Creation and created beings

1. By displaying, showing, allowing the experience of beauty (Art's enriching function)
2. By pointing beyond itself. (Art's witnessing function)

### 3. Art And Worship

Psalm 27:4 - What is the worshiper gazing at? What does he see?

Most of the Old Testament's references to artists are in the context of  
\_\_\_\_\_ (see Exodus 28-31)

The worship space, ritual and articles had artistic functions:

- they showed beauty (e.g. Exodus 28:40)
- they pointed to the God of Beauty (e.g. 1 Kings 7:21)

Psalm 50:2 says - "*God shines from Zion, the city perfect in its beauty.*" (TEV)

Art exercises the imagination in worship (see 1 Cor 2:9)

None of these God-mandated worship art forms are not the end product.

The skill of the artist, including the worship artist, is God-given:

*"Let us avail ourselves of that skill, lest, by neglecting the gifts of God spontaneously offered to us, we be justly punished for our sloth."*

(John Calvin *Institutes* II.2.16)

### 4. The Second Commandment, Worship and Art

- Where is the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment in the Bible relative to the commandment to build an art-filled worship space?

Don't make graven images.... does **not** mean \_\_\_\_\_

It **does** mean \_\_\_\_\_

Confusion happens easily! Compare Exodus 31 and 32.

Hence Lord's Day 96

note the Medieval context

Where does the Bible negate the challenge of Exodus 28-31?

What is our challenge today?