"Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass." Psalms 106:20 KJV

In Egypt Israel had witnessed and perhaps worshipped gods destroyed by the ten plagues. They had for their Protector, Champion, and Glory the sovereign LORD of eternity. He brought them forth out of bondage from one of greatest Pharaohs in history. He completely annihilated the greatest army on earth in the depths of an uncrossable sea. A pillar of cloud by day shaded from the hot sun and a pillar of fire by night quenched the desert night chill as it guided them securely in trackless wasteland. He gave them victory over Amalek. He caused a river of water to flow from solid rock to quench the thirst of a two million strong throng plus their livestock. They came to Sinai and witnessed the glory of God as it descended upon the mountain with fire, thunder, and lightning. After all they had seen they still reverted to the wickedness from which God had delivered them. *"They changed their glory"* from the worship of the invisible omnipotent Jehovah to a grass eating ox as they danced and partied around its golden image in the very shadow of Omnipotence! What colossal stupidity do you suppose this took? Is it perhaps the same ignorance that causes true believers to identify themselves with all manner of images from sports teams to fashion as they throw their "gold" into the fire of worldly evil? We may not think of it as the same, but it is nonetheless! The omnipresent Holy Spirit is grieved when we spend our time reveling in worldly pastimes instead of with Him. *"Meditate therein, day and night. Pray without ceasing."* We've seen God's power of deliverance, but soon forget as our flesh groans and sighs after the leeks and onions of pleasure and the trinkets of “Vanity Fair.” Like willful children, we pry ourselves loose from the safe grasp of Truth and run pell-mell after dangerous delights only to come crying back wounded and bruised, if at all. Many just sit in their misery and cry angrily at wounds of their own making. *"The LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf."* Has a *“calf”* in your life brought the plagues you suffer?

Let not my heart from Thee away,
That by Thy side I always stay,
That Thou wouldst keep me lest I stray,
O Blessed Savior this I pray! *~CGP*

God was ready to destroy the whole lot of them. *"And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book."* If it hadn't been for the intercessory prayer of Moses on their behalf, He would have. Moses prayed, *"Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin…and if not, blot me, I pray Thee, out of Thy book which Thou hast written."* In Moses, we have a picture of the Holy Spirit as He intercedes for believers with the Father when we sin. *"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."* What has usurped God's rightful Throne in your life?

> *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1 KJV*

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