

9-4-22
JESUS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD

Picture Sunday

Colossians 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [us] into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, [even] the forgiveness of sins:

Colossians 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Colossians 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [things] he might have the preeminence.

Colossians 1:19 For it pleased [the Father] that in him should all fulness dwell;

We like taking pictures. A lot of people commented on the slide presentation of Midge Accardi at the funeral. Isn't great that we were able to look at Midge's life story - from her childhood to her adult days; and on into her last month here on earth. We had about 100 different photos that made up a 17 minute slide presentation. We were able to view just about her whole life in those slides.

Today is Picture Sunday and I encourage people to come and get their picture taken. I remember when Al Miller passed away, and they put his favorite picture for display at his funeral and that picture was one that was taken of him and May here on picture Sunday. Pictures provide memories.

I really don't understand why more families do not take advantage of this great opportunity to get their picture taken.

Now when talking about pictures and images, (A picture is nothing more than an image captured on paper..) however, there is one person that we do not have pictures of and cannot have pictures of.

In fact one of the commandments states that we are not to make any graven image of God. The reason we cannot get a picture of God is because he is spirit and we cannot see spirit nor take a picture of the spirit world or God.

In fact when Moses asked to see God's glory and face he said no man can see my face and live..

Exodus 33:20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

Now the reason God did not want us to make any representation of him or image that would represent him is because we cannot see God. God is spirit. Our earthy eyes and minds cannot see spirit. Any representation or picture we would make of God would be in error.

In fact our text Colossians 1:15 says clearly that God is invisible .. He is called the INVISIBLE GOD..

Now according to our text the only picture or way we can visibly see God is in Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

This morning since it is our picture Sunday.. I want to share a message about how:

***JESUS IS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE PICTURE OF GOD
JESUS IS CALLED THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD***

There is no other way to see God but through Jesus!

I. JESUS IS THE IMAGE OF GOD AND ONLY LEGITIMATE WAY TO SEE GOD ..

All other ways men try to see God are idolatrous and fabrications of their imaginations.

In John 6:46 Jesus said no man hath seen the father..

When talking about pictures.. do you know there is only one legitimate picture of God. All other pictures are forbidden.

John 14:8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou [then], Shew us the Father?

John 14:10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

John 14:11 Believe me that I [am] in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

Notice how Jesus says to Philip, that to see him is to see the father. To know him is to know the father.

You see a lot of things that Jesus told those early disciples was very hard to understand and comprehend. In fact he often would say, "If you can't believe what I say, believe what I am saying is true based on my works."

John 14:11 Believe me that I [am] in the Father, and the Father in me: **or else believe me for the very works' sake.**

This is a miracle.. It is a mystery.. how Jesus could be God in the flesh.

I Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

He said, you find this hard to believe, but you have seen the miracles I have done, believe what I say based on the miracles I have done and you have seen! When men are given new revelation, they should rightly ask for verification through signs and miracles. There is nothing wrong with that. We do not need signs and miracles today because we have the authorized word of God. These words are testified and verified.

Jesus was God manifest in the flesh, the image of the invisible God!
No man has seen this invisible God but they could see Jesus.

Moses was forbidden to see God.. So no man could see God..

Yet Jesus came down to earth and veiled his glory and became a man so we could know and understand God! Jesus was called Immanuel.. "GOD WITH US"

In Matthew 17 Jesus allowed Peter John and James to see his glory unveiled for a short time. Just so they could get a glimpse of who he really was.

Jesus is the only legitimate way mankind can see the father.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

II. JESUS IS THE IMAGE OF GOD AND ONLY WAY TO KNOW GOD...

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

You cannot come to God any other way but through Jesus...

I remember, the Sunday I got saved, I went to a little church and they were having a special Sunday service and a lot of people were giving testimonies about how Jesus changed their lives. What impressed me is that they all were giving glory to Jesus for what he did for them. I kept thinking to myself how could a person who died 2000 years

ago be still affecting so many people today. How does a dead man change people's lives? It just amazed me that they were all talking about how Jesus changed them. Dead people don't change anything.. only the living affect people.

I was witnessing to a man who said, he didn't want to go through the son he wanted to go straight to the "Old Man" he called him .. meaning the Father. How foolish that is.

I've got news for you.. no one can come to the Father but through the son...

When I got saved, I was introduced to Jesus as a Saviour, as the only way to God. I remember praying in my heart, saying, something like this:

I remember praying to the Jesus that changed all those people that gave testimony that morning. I prayed saying, Lord if you are real and you brought me to this church to hear about you, then I will take you if you will take me..

It was not a fancy prayer..

It was not a repeat after me prayer..

It was kind of a simple prayer, but it was a sincere prayer, and from that day on God started to do something in my life to change me.

What changed my life was Jesus.

YOU CAN'T KNOW GOD UNTIL YOU COME TO KNOW JESUS IN A PERSONAL WAY ..

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Anyone who has not received Christ cannot understand spiritual things..

I Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

I Corinthians 2:15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

I Corinthians 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

When you come to know Christ, you come to know God and the things of God.

Without a personal relationship and knowledge of Christ you cannot know God, or understand spiritual truth.

Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [us] into the kingdom of his dear Son:

In Christ we are delivered from the power of darkness.

This world, (no matter how they white wash it), are under the bondage of the powers of darkness. What is the power that Satan has over mankind? It is the power to affect our minds. It is the power to blind us to the truth. The spiritual battle takes place in the minds and hearts of men.

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

II Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

I was witnessing to an English teacher one time and she said the everyone interprets the Bible differently. I said, you are an English teacher, why not just read it and accept it for what it says. I turned to John 3:16 and I asked her to explain what Jesus was saying. When she read it, she could not read it for what it said. She was an English teacher who could not read English when it came to the Bible.

Without Christ, we cannot know truth.

I Corinthians 1:5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and [in] all knowledge;

Colossians 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

In Christ is all knowledge and wisdom.. and yet the world has rejected him and this world has gone into confusion.

I am seeing a lot of young people rejecting Christ and not being saved. Now in their rejection of their Christianity they turn to blaspheming, and turning on the church and Christ. I am thinking of a Christian School that has been shut down because a few students got bitter at God and the school. Now many years down the road they complain about the discipline of the school. Now they are saying such discipline was abuse. Especially as they talk about the spankings they received. I am seeing how a lot of women jump on the band wagon of the "me too movement" and in their twisted minds see biblical standards abuse. The world lauds such blasphemy.

So now years go by and these people who were once children are now in their 30's and 40's and the world loves to hear how they interpret their childhood experiences. These

are they who were never translated from the power of darkness into the Kingdom of God's dear son. These become the Judas Iscariots of the world. The world loves to parade them and make trophies of them to the prince of darkness. They love to put them on TV and these spiritual cast aways love the attention of the world. These are they who sell their birthright for a bowl of soup. They sell out their savior for 30 pieces of silver.

So unlike King David who was a man after God's own heart they are the Absaloms of the church. My Bible says,

Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

David could have indicted his Jewish faith because of the way Saul treated him but he didn't. Daniel could have gotten bitter at God because of his suffering under the hands of the Babylonians but he didn't. Joseph could have gotten bitter because of the abuse he suffered under his brothers but he didn't.

These are the disciples of John 6 who walked away from Jesus and said, these are hard sayings who can hear it.. John 6:66 they go the way of the mark of the beast..

John 6:60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard [this], said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

John 6:66 From that [time] many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

Those who do not receive Christ remain under the influence and the powers of darkness of this world. They are the devils children and will do his bidding when called upon. In Christ alone are we delivered from the powers of darkness and translated into in the Kingdom of God. In their minds they will twist Scripture and God's working in their life.

Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [us] into the kingdom of his dear Son:

III. JESUS IS THE IMAGE OF GOD NOT JUST FIGURATIVELY BUT LITERALLY..

For instance the Bible says that God made man in his image. This means man is a reflection of God, similar to God. However, he was not equal to God in power or attributes. Man is not omnipotent, omniscient, or omnipresent, these are attributes of God alone. Yet, Jesus had these attributes.

Jesus knew all things... His disciples declared this..

John 16:30 Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.

John 21:17 thou knowest all things.. (Peter said this to Jesus)

Jesus declared his Omnipresence.. to Nicodemus

John 3:13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, [even] the Son of man which is in heaven.

Jesus declared his Omnipresence to Nathanael in John 1:48

John 1:48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

Jesus demonstrated his Omnipotence when he rebukes the winds and calmed the seas.. His disciples in Matt. 8:27 declared this..

Matthew 8:27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

These are attributes that only God has.

Adam and Eve were made in the image of God in that they were a reflection of God, in that they had dominion on Earth, they had ability to reason, speak, make decisions, plan, had creative abilities. Yet, they were not co-equal to God. They were not God manifest in the flesh. Look at Colossians chapter one and it explains more about how Christ was the image of the invisible God.

Colossians 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Colossians 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [things] he might have the preeminence.

When it says he was the firstborn of every creature, this means he is the pre-eminent one. Col. 1:17 puts it this way he is before all things because by him all things consist.

Notice Colossians 1:16 goes further, he created all things. Adam was created by God. All things were created by him and for Him.

Paul goes even further by him all things consist.

Think about who He is when you read these verses and think what it means in Colossians that he is THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD.. we realize he is not just a picture of God. He was God manifest and come in the flesh.

Colossians 1:7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

Colossians 1:8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

Epaphras brought a report to Paul about what was going on at the church of Colossae and possibly he reported that there was heresy being spread about Christ and who he is. So Paul had to clarify and correct this heresy.

Lets see what he says about Jesus

In Christ are hid all treasures Paul says, don't let anyone make you think you need something more.

Colossians 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Colossians 2:4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

He is all in all..

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Paul goes on to warn how some people will try to beguile them with legalism, and worshipping of angels, and other things. All we need for salvation is Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone.

Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath [days]:

Colossians 2:17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body [is] of Christ.

Colossians 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

When the Paul said, He is the image of the invisible God .. he meant he was God very God who added to himself flesh. This is called a mystery.

CONCLUSION:

IV. JESUS IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD.. IF YOU DON'T HAVE JESUS IN YOUR HEART YOU DO NOT HAVE GOD IN YOUR LIFE..

From cover to cover the Bible is a Jesus book. To know Jesus is to know God. To know Jesus is to see God.. To love Jesus is to love God.

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

In Genesis he was there creating all things..

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

When the word said, let there be light that was a prophecy of Jesus who would someday become the light of the world.

In Exodus he was the Passover lamb..

In Leviticus he was our High priest..

In Numbers is the pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night./.

In Deuteronomy he was foretold of being a prophet like unto Moses..

...

In Ruth he is the Kinsman Redeemer, and who comes through root of Jesse..

In the Kings & Chronicles he the seed of David, the king to come..

In the Psalms it predicts his crucifixion and resurrection in clarity..

In Proverbs he is all wisdom..

Even in the Song of Solomon we see a picture of Christ and his church.

The Bible is a Jesus book from cover to cover... Call me a Jesus Freak if you want to that is not an insult to me. I'd rather be addicted to Jesus than addicted to dinking or drugs or sports or any other earthly love or endeavor.

There is severe warning in Scripture about loving Christ.

I Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

He alone is the image of the invisible God. You cannot see God you cannot know God, without having Jesus in your heart.

Have you received Jesus into your heart and life? Have you surrendered your life to Christ?