



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1.8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

March 29, 2015

“Made In His Image”

Bryan Garlock

David wrote, “When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him...” (Psalm 8.3-4).

Moses recorded, “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Gen. 1.26-27).

Notice God said, “let us make man in our image.” Therefore, we are not made in the image of God the Father only, but in the image of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. While three Persons make up the Godhead (Matt. 29.19; Matt. 3.16-17), there is but one divine nature.

To be made in His image is not in the sense of physical characteristics or form, rather in a spiritual sense. Paul preached, “The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man...” (Acts 17.24-29).

From Paul's speech we infer necessarily that we are spiritual beings. Indeed, we have flesh and blood (Gen. 6.3), but we, “ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man...” This is further seen in that God is spirit (John 4.24) and that for Christ to die on the cross for our sins, He first had to be made like us, that is, be made flesh (John 1.14; Heb. 10.5). To be continued on back...

Northside
church Of Christ

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Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us
- Men's Bible April 12th @ 3:30 PM
- Kid's drill April 5th @ 4 PM
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Mar. 29 Josh. 22-24

Mar. 30 Judg. 1-2

Mar. 31 Judg. 3-5

Apr. 1 Judg. 6-7

Apr. 2 Judg. 8-9

Apr. 3 Judg. 10-12

Apr. 4 Judg. 13-15

Since "we are indeed his offspring," and since He is not flesh and blood, it can only mean that we have His image in a spiritual sense. As a side note, Laban, Jacob's father in law, said, "And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?" (Gen. 31.30). Since our God and Father is not "like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man," He cannot be stolen.

Therefore, when God said we are made in His image, He means, that He is the giver of each individual's spirit (Zech. 12.1; Eccl. 12.7). Further, He could not impart to man that which He did not possess apart from a physical body. First, since God does not possess flesh, we cannot be "created in the image of His flesh." Second, the Scriptures show that God possesses knowledge (1 Cor. 2.11), can feel emotions (Heb. 10.29; Eph. 4.30), has a conscience (Acts 5.3; 15.28) and can exercise His will (1 Cor. 12.11; John 3.16). Third, since God is eternal past, present and future, when we are made in His image, we are made with an immortal spirit. However, eternity for us begins on the Day of Judgment when some "...go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" (Matt. 25.46). This is further affirmed by Jesus' reasoning from "the passage about the bush" where God said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Exo. 3.6; Mark 12.24-27). Though physically dead, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob's spirit were still living! Jesus refuted the Sadducees' objection to the resurrection; their belief that man has no spirit. Finally, Solomon said, "See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes" (Eccl. 7.29). This is consistent with God's plan to create each individual holy, righteous and in His image. Since He is holy (1 Peter 1.15-16), we are made holy! Thus, it cannot be true that we inherit the sins of one man or a sinful nature; else God gives each person a debauched spirit! This demolishes the claim that man is wholly depraved, having contracted a sinful nature from the sin of Adam!

James taught, "...each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death" (1.14-15). This is consistent with, "...but they have sought out many schemes" as seen above. Therefore, Adam and Eve tarnished the image of God when they sinned and we tarnish the image when we sin. This proves we are not born sinners rather we become sinners (a point we will develop next week).

Paul said, "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers" (Rom. 8.29). Desiring all those who have tarnished the image to be conformed back to the original image, that is, to the image of His Son, God has made salvation available to all men. Have you been baptized in His name for the remission of your sins? It is the only way to be conformed to the image we have tarnished. BG