

**“Jesus – The Image of God”**  
**Colossians 1:15-20, Pt. 1**

**I. Introductory Passages:**

*1 John 3:2* - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is.

*2 Corinthians 3:18* - And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

**II. Colossians 1:15-20 is highly poetic in structure.**

- A. Many are convinced it was originally a hymn.
- B. This tells us that profound theological reflection should lead to worship.

**III. Jesus is *the* Visible Image of God.**

- A. God (the Father) is invisible in the sense that humans are *unable* to see Him.

*Exodus 33:20* - But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"

*1 Timothy 6:16* - ...who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

- B. Jesus, as *the* Image of God, makes the unseen God visible.

- 1. In His incarnation:

*John 14:8-9* - <sup>8</sup> Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

- 2. Yet God the Son appeared to men as "God-made-visible" in OT times:

- a. To Abraham for example...

*Genesis 18:1* - The Lord (Yahweh) appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day.

- b. As *The* Angel of the Lord...

*Judges 6:22-23* - <sup>22</sup> When Gideon saw that he was the Angel of the Lord, he said, "Alas, O Lord God! For now I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face." <sup>23</sup> The Lord said to him, "Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die."

*Judges 13:21-23* - <sup>21</sup> When the Angel of the Lord did not show himself again to Manoah and his wife, Manoah realized that it was the Angel of the Lord. <sup>22</sup> "We are doomed to die!" he said to his wife. "We have seen God!" <sup>23</sup> But his wife answered, "If the Lord (Yahweh) had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and grain offering from our hands, nor shown us all these things or now told us this."

C. Jesus, as *the* Image of God, also reveals what God is like.

**John 1:18** - *No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.*

**Romans 5:8** - *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

#### IV. We are made in God's image (small "i") – Genesis 1-2.

A. In a mysterious way, we resemble Him in the way we look:

**Ezekiel 8:2** - *Then I looked, and behold, a likeness as the appearance of a man; from His loins and downward there was the appearance of fire, and from His loins and upward the appearance of brightness, like the appearance of glowing metal.*

B. We were also created to display what God is like.

1. Though the Fall disrupted this...
2. Yet Christians are being renewed into the image of Jesus so we can do just that!

**Romans 8:29** - *For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;*