

SERMON: THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE

Colossians 1:14-15a

(14) In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins. (15a) Who is the image of the invisible God.

Introduction

In a famous cathedral in Rome there was a magnificent fresco. However, few people actually appreciated the great work of art. Why the absence of appreciation for this painting? It was located on the inside of a high and lofty dome. Everyone trying to look up that high for any length of time received a stiff neck and acute eyestrain. Thus, physical discomfort prevented enjoyment and appreciation of this masterpiece. Finally, someone solved the centuries-old problem. A large mirror was placed on the floor directly under the fresco. A sight once too distant and difficult to behold was, in effect, brought down to a human level. Guests could now be seated to study and appreciate all the splendor of this superb painting. This is what God did for us on that first Christmas. Jesus is the image of the invisible God. He is no longer a God way out there too distant, or too difficult to behold. Jesus came so we could.....

Exposition

1. See God More Clearly

2. Love God More Dearly

3. Follow God More Nearly

4. Worship God More Sincerely

Closing Thoughts

If we want to know what God looks like, all we have to do is study the life of Jesus. He fully embodied the power and authority of the Father. He gives us a picture of perfection. He gives us a glimpse of glory. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory.

Related Scriptures

John 14:8-9

2nd Corinthians 4:4

Philippians 2:6

Hebrews 1:3

End Notes

1. The outline of this sermon is an adaptation of one of Richard of Chichester's famous prayers:

“Lord, let me see Thee more clearly,
Lord, let me love Thee more dearly,
Lord, let me follow Thee more nearly,
Lord, let me worship Thee more sincerely.
Amen.”

This prayer and several of his other prayers have been set to music.

The Cathedral of Chichester has always been known for poetic prayers and great music. Music nerds may want to revisit the *Chichester Psalms* by Leonard Bernstein.

2. The Greek word translated as image is, “eikon.” From this word we get our English word, “icon.”

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