

The Express Image of His Person

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Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- I. God sent his Son with a manifold purpose.
 - A. Many are living their lives thinking they believe in Jesus, but they are believing for the wrong reasons.
 1. Some believe He came to heal the sick, and they live for that fact.
 2. Some believe He came to make a better life for us here and now and live for that.
 3. Some believe that He came to simply be our friend and helper and our own personal super-hero to deliver us from trouble and bless us every day.
 - B. But the work of Christ was on a much higher level than any of the things on which selfish-minded people focus.

- II. His work has many aspects, and there are many different purposes that his life, death, and resurrection effected, but they are all under one heading – to take away sin and restore man to fellowship with his God.
 - A. He came to take away our sins.

1 John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.
 - B. He came to destroy the works of the Devil.

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.
 - C. He came to abolish death.

2 Tim 1:9-10 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:
 - D. He came that we might have eternal life.

1 John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.
 - E. He came to redeem us and make us sons of God.

Gal 4:4-5 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.
 - F. He condemned sin in the flesh.

Rom 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

- III. The greatest thing He came to do was to manifest to man the heart of God.

- A. All the other things He did had as their root this main purpose.
- B. Man was alienated and estranged from God and had no true idea of the mind and heart of God.
- C. Jesus was the “express image” of the Father.
 - 1. We might look at a picture of someone we’ve never met in order to know more about them.
 - 2. If someone else told us all about them, it wouldn’t be the same as listening to the person themselves.
- D. God came down and dwelt among men.

Mat 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

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.

1 Tim 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.

- 1. Jesus was the “express image” of the Father

John 14:7-10 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 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? 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.

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

2 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.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- IV. It was necessary for God to manifest Himself clearly because man had a wrong conception of God.
 - A. Sin had made man depraved in his thinking — especially his thinking about God.
 - 1. Just as we are suspicious and ashamed before another person we know we have wronged, so are men before God, whom they have wronged.
 - 2. You imagine that person to be angry and vengeful toward you.
 - 3. You imagine that he feels toward you as you would if you had been wronged.
 - 4. You count him as your enemy.
 - 5. You either imagine Him too strong for you to face, or too weak to be afraid of.
 - B. Man STILL has a wrong concept of God.
 - 1. Most seem to think He is too weak to be afraid of.
 - 2. They imagine that His love won’t allow Him to punish their sin.

3. They imagine that He will be glad to have them whenever they get ready and finished with their sin.
- C. God is STILL being misrepresented to man by the devil and all his blinded followers.
1. That is why Jesus MUST be lifted up.

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

2. The real reasons for His coming MUST be preached.
 3. The true people of God must not water down the message of the Gospel with the shallow cliches and sin-condoning doctrines of apostate main-line religion.
- D. The true disciples of Christ must come out from among them and be separate and preach the Jesus of the Bible and not this “other Jesus” that does not even resemble Him.
- E. He came to take away our sin and that is totally denied by all main-line religions now.
1. That makes them apostates and hypocrites and unbelievers.
 2. Not only do they not believe this basic, core reason for the God sending his Son to this world, but they fight fiercely to disprove it, and mark anyone who still believes it as a heretic.
 3. The fact that Jesus came to take away sin is a non-issue until someone brings it up.
- F. Sin is what separated man from God and it is the basic issue that Christ came to deal with.
1. The book of Hebrews, as well as most of the rest of the Bible, deals with this issue and makes it the center of all matters earthly and eternal.
 2. No man can be in fellowship with God while he lives in continual, habitual sin.

Hebrews 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.