

Title: Image is Everything  
Text: Psalm 73: 20  
Date: June 24, 2012  
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

We live in a world where image is everything. And it may be a surprise to you to hear me say this but “image is everything.” Not in the sense of this wicked world’s constant promotion of self-image. But in order to be eternally accepted of holy God, image is everything.

**Title:** Image is Everything

**Proposition:** Our text describes some whom God shall awake from the dead in the day of judgment.

**Psalm 73: 20:** As a dream when *one* awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

**Divisions:** I. ADAM’S IMAGE; II. CHRIST’S IMAGE; III. THE BELIEVER’S IMAGE

## **I. ADAM’S IMAGE**

Adam was created in the image of God: in purity, holiness, and righteousness.

Genesis 1: 26: 26: And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27: So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

In the likeness of God, Adam was given dominion, power, and authority over the creatures.

Genesis 1: 28: And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

But the image of God in which Adam was originally created became defiled by his disobedience and spiritual death.

Genesis 3: 9: And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou? 10: And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself.

**Application:** Here was Adam, once holy and righteous so as to walk and talk with God, made in the image of God, now afraid and hiding from God. Why did Christ say that men hide from God? Why do sinners hide themselves from the Light? What makes sinners uncomfortable to hear the gospel of Christ and him crucified?

John 3: 19: And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Sinner, what is keeping you from being honest with God and with yourself? Why all the excuses? Why the accusations? Why is there no unity with these saints here?

John 3: 20: For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

Adam would not come to God because he knew his sin would be reproved and he would have to renounce the work of his hands by which he tried to cover his sin. But when God drew him to confess his sin, then God covered him in the garments God himself provided. Sinners who come to Christ confessing that we have sinned and done nothing righteous receive mercy from God. Those who hide—**he shall despise their image.**

Before the fall, when in the image of God, verse 28 said, "God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion...over every living thing." Now after the fall, note how thoroughly polluted that likeness became.

Genesis 3: 17: And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

In Adam, the federal head and representative of all mankind, we all died—sin was imputed to us. By natural generation we were born with Adam's corrupt nature. His polluted, defiled, image is the image you and I are born with.

Romans 5: 12: Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

Genesis 5: 3: And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat *a son* in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

Psalm 51: 5: Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**Application:** Every moment, right now, sinners are standing before the holy and righteous God in this unholy and unrighteous image. Oh, a great many have washed their hands in snow water and made themselves aprons of fig leaves. Ignorant that the "**wicked is snared in the work of his own hands**" many attempt to convince God that they are something they are not.

Matthew 7: 22: Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23: And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

**Psalm 73: 19: How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. 20: As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise THEIR IMAGE.**

## II. CHRIST'S IMAGE

Now we see that if left in our sinful image, in the Day of Judgment God will **despise our image.** And we see that all mankind lost the image of God by Adam's disobedience and our being born of him. So then salvation has got to come from someone who is not like us.

Job 14:4: Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one....**15:14**: What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous? 15: Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight. 16: How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?...**25:4**: How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?

Salvation has got to be by one: not born of natural generation of corruptible seed, but one born of God, in the image of God—pure, holy, righteous, undefiled, separate from sinners. He has got to be eternal so as to obtain eternal redemption. But how could such a one come into this earth?

Luke 1: 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35: And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Christ Jesus is the express image of God.

Hebrews 1: 3: Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person,...

The express image means more than a mere likeness it means Christ is the brightness of God's glory, the Son of God: the essential, eternal image of his Father—distinct from God the Father but not inferior to the Father in any way. Christ is the eternal one, perfect and complete with the same nature and perfections. Christ is the express image of holiness and righteousness, of wisdom and power, of truth and faithfulness, of love and grace. Christ Jesus is the Son of God in whom God takes infinite complacency and delight. Our Savior, the Man Christ Jesus, is God. He is the express image of God--altogether holy and righteous and fit to be the high priest of his people.

Hebrews 7: 26: For such a high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

**Note:** Adam was not the express image of God, he was created merely in the image of God. But the first Adam was made by Christ and for Christ as a foreshadow of the last Adam who is the express image of God. Christ is...

Colossians 1: 15: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16: For by him were all things created,...all things were created by him, and for him: 17: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Adam was given dominion—so was Christ, but how greater is Christ the express image of God...for he...

Hebrews 1: 3:...and upholding all things by the word of his power,...

He upholds all creatures he has made, the whole universe and he rules and governs and providentially orders and disposes of all things in the world by the word of his power. But particularly, he upholds this world because of the the everlasting covenant word that he shall not lose one whom the Father gave him—this world is held in place by him, because his covenant word insures that not one for whom he died shall perish, but that he will see to it that all shall come to repentance.

Adam disobeyed God and plunged all whom he represented into spiritual death, but Christ obeyed God and saved all whom he represented:

Hebrews 1: 3:...when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- He
- He by himself
- He by himself purged our sins

Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

- He by himself finished the transgression for God's people who make up God's holy city.
- He by himself made an end of sins for everyone he represented
- He by himself made reconciliation for iniquity of his elect, holy city.
- He by himself brought in everlasting righteousness for all he represented
- He by himself sealed up—filled-full—the vision and the prophecy—all that was written of him.
- **GOD HAS ANOINTED THE MOST HOLY**

Hebrews 1: 3:...when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

God the Father despised NOT the image of his Son—but God **“raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.”** (Acts 13: 33)

**App.** Except a sinner comes to God in the image of Christ our text tells us the sure and certain reception he shall receive of God: **Psalm 73: 20: As a dream when *one* awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.**

### **III. HOW IS A BELIEVER MADE TO HAVE THE IMAGE OF CHRIST?**

We must be recreated after Christ's image—and all those God elected unto salvation shall be:

Romans 8: 29: For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Each of his elect must and shall be brought to hear the gospel of Christ for God predestinated them to be conformed to his image so too he predestinated the means. The King of kings shall in his almighty power to send the good news of his accomplishments on their behalf. Each of his purchased possessions shall be born of the Spirit and given faith to believe on him in spirit and in truth. Christ who upholds all things by the word of his power has power to do so.

**Illustration:** When the Word walked this earth—he knew right where his children were—he went right to them and he called them out. He is doing the same in our day from his throne in glory through the ambassadors he sends to preach his gospel—his gospel is forbidden and sent by him.

Acts 16: 6: Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, 7 After they were come to Mysia, they

assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not...10: And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

It is a must each one hear the gospel because as Paul said, those who are blinded by the god of this world will remain so...

2 Corinthians 4: 4:...lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

But when the light of the glorious gospel of Christ who is the image of God shines unto his child of mercy a miracle happens:

2 Corinthians 3: 18: But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord (**Turn to Col 3**)

The preacher has no power to do this. It is the work of the Holy Spirit:

2 Corinthians 4: 7: But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

John 1: 13: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Galatians 6: 15: For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

John 6: 63: It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

Romans 2: 28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.

But by the Spirit of God it is this new creation made of God wherein believers are created anew in the image of Christ.

Colossians 3: 10: And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.

2 Corinthians 5: 17: Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new 18: And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

**Application:** Our old way of saying some part of salvation was of us is passed away—all things are of God. Our old course of living passes away--there is a new course of living by faith, loving that which is holy. Our old way of serving God in the flesh is passed away—now we serve God in spirit and in truth. Our old way of trying to come to God in the letter of the law is passed away—now we have the law of God written on our inward parts—we are created anew in righteousness and holiness of truth—(Eph 4: 24.) Our old way was to

watch and criticize with the eye of a Pharisee—now we know those called of God are made righteous in Christ and the law was not made for a righteous man.

Romans 8: 33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

Before we were under the law, we tried to constrain others by the law of works—now we are under grace, constrained by the love of God, so we endeavor to help one another's joy.

We have been reconciled to God and Christ has become our All!

Hebrews 7: 19: For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope *did*; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

Before we put emphasis on riches, honors, our former religion, we lived for self and really were uncomfortable with God's saints—those old things are all passed away, now our riches are Christ. His honor and glory rules our hearts. We love those who are begotten of him and are more comfortable with his saints than with our former companions. Our inward man has been created eternally new after Christ's image—never again to be corrupted: born of his incorruptible Seed, we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto these good works which he hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

In that final day of judgment—while God shall despise the image of those who come in their own polluted image—every believer shall be perfectly conformed to his image.

1 John 3:2: Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

1 Corinthians 15:47: The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven. 48: As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly. 49: And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50: Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51: Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? 56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. 57 But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalms 17: 15: As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

### **Here is our application:**

1 Cor 15: 58: Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Amen!