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Lilbourn Church of Christ
P.O. Box 270
Lilbourn, MO 63862

Address Service Requested



Times of Assembly:

Sunday:

Bible Class	9:45am
Morning Worship	10:45am
Evening Worship	5:30pm

Wednesday:

Bible Class	7:30pm
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Website:

www.geocities.com/heartland/cabin/8851/

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We cannot love and serve the Lord in an acceptable manner unless we have an accurate understanding of His character.

Any physical portrayal, however, whether with pictures, symbols, or statues, **distorts** our awareness of His true character and **lessens** a healthy respect for His awesome holiness and power.

If we knew what God really looked like, we would inevitably make an image and seek to understand him through that image, instead of through what is revealed in His Word.

If Rome's greatest worldly scholar could see the dangers of misrepresenting deity, how much more should we who have God's Word, which makes us complete for every good work, understand the danger.

Our desire must be to have a proper respect for God and to grow in our knowledge of Him. We are made in the image of God, let us not make Him in our image.

— Shane Williams

The Lilbourn Light



"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" -Psalm 119:105



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Number 4

God's Image

Marcus Terentius Varro (116-27 BC) is described in the Encyclopedia Britannica as "*Rome's greatest scholar.*" He wrote more than 400 books on many subjects. Among his writings is this statement: "***They who first introduced images of the gods removed fear and added error.***"

This thoughtful statement helps us understand even more why Moses reminded Israel at Sinai of God's form. **Deut. 4:15**, "*You saw no form when the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the*

midst of the fire."

It also highlights the reason behind God's command prohibiting any physical depictions of Him. **Vs. 16**, "*lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure.*"

Exodus 20:4, "*You shall not make for yourself any carved image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*"

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Jesus, a Better Way

We are always looking for better ways to accomplish day to day tasks. We have faster computers, more efficient cars, MP3s and DVD players instead of cassettes and VHS. There have been lots of improvements over what used to be.

God is the originator of the better way. The author of Hebrews said that the Old Law was only a "shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things" (10:1). Jesus and His death on the cross are the reality. He is the mediator of a better covenant, enacted on better promises (8:6).

Hebrews 9:11-15, "But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed

under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."

Before Jesus came, people waited for the annual Day of Atonement, when the high priest entered the Most Holy Place (9:7). The Jews call this day Yom Kippur. In that magnificent place where the Ark of the Covenant was located, the High Priest offered the blood of animals on behalf of himself and the Israelites (Lev. 16:11-34).

When Jesus Christ came to earth, something better was revealed. He Himself became our High Priest by sacrificing His life and shedding His blood for atonement of our sins. **Heb. 9:28**, "so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many."

Now, when we take advantage of His gift of forgiveness, we can rejoice that the penalty of our sins has been paid and our guilt removed.

Rom. 5:9-10, "*Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."*

Rom. 8:1, "*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*"

Salvation through the Messiah is the only way we can be forgiven and be reconciled to God. Isn't this a much better way? Are you "in Christ Jesus" (**Gal. 3:26-27**)?

— Shane Williams

Strength of Faith

Not all Christians exercise the same strength of faith. Some people seem to think their problem is unique and therefore too big for God to solve. Others are sure that God is supreme but they're not confident that He is mindful of them. Others are confident in what God can do and trust Him to do what's best. These various outlooks range from a weak and hesitant faith to a firm confidence that believes God at His word and trusts He can do all things.

As you look into the life of Jesus, we see varying degrees of faith in those who came to Him:

- He cast out a spirit from a boy whose father wavered between faith and doubt (Mk. 9:17-24). **Mark 9:22-24**, "...*But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!*" 23 And Jesus said to him, "*If You can!*" *All things are possible to him who believes.*" 24 Immediately the boy's father cried out and began saying, "*I do believe; help my unbelief.*"

- He healed a leper who knew He could but was not sure He would (Mk.1:40-45). **Mark 1:40-41**, "And a leper came to Him,

beseeking Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." 41 And moved with compassion, He stretched out His hand, and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."

- He healed the servant of a centurion who was so sure of the outcome that he asked Jesus merely to speak the word from afar (Lk. 7:1-10).

Luke 7:6-7, "Now Jesus started on His way with them; and when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to Him, "*Lord, do not trouble Yourself further, for I am not worthy for You to come under my roof; 7 for this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed...*"

Luke 7:9, "Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the multitude that was following Him, "*I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith.*"

These examples do NOT teach that God always answers according to the strength of our faith. Rather, in His wisdom, He responds to any degree of faith. Remember, He desires for us to trust Him completely, so that we may know Him more and be closer to Him.

Let us be committed to God's will, having a strong faith in the Lord and relying on Him completely!

— Shane Williams