

Intro: In my office I have dozens of printers blocks! Back in the day...used to make an image...ink Whatever was on the block...the "Image" was perfectly reproduced on the paper!

That very word is what is used by the Apostle Paul to describe Jesus in Col 1:15

"He (Jesus) is the IMAGE of the invisible God!"

As we continue our series in Colossians that we have titled "Jesus" I want to examine that in depth today.

Theme: *The absolute supremacy and sole sufficiency of Jesus Christ*

- Shares with us the FULLNESS of who Jesus IS! 1:15-18; 2:9
- And the SUFFICIENCY of what He has done for us! 1:21-22; 2:20
Nothing plus Jesus = Everything *Everything without Jesus = Nothing*

Last week we said: Because of WHO Jesus IS, and WHAT Jesus did: We are called to walk worthy 5 specific actions: Hopeful, Fruitful, Strong, Growing, Thankful,

Today we want to build on that foundation, and look together at what it means for us to know the Jesus of the bible in a personal and intimate way. And again, I want to remind you: Knowledge = Conduct
Illus: If it TRULY know the Jesus of the bible...are His disciple...what does that mean practically?

1. Because Jesus is the "Image" of the Invisible God...We Can KNOW What God is Like! 1:15

Image: Lit = *the stamp; the icon; the representation* God stamped on Human flesh! 1:19; 2:9

When the HS inspired Paul to use this specific word He was communicating something to us.

God WANTS us to know Him...Understand Him...Be in relationship with Him...So Revealed Himself
Revelation means *"to pull the curtain back"* in order to help you see behind the curtain: Can't see

Illus: I regularly talk with people that say to me, *"Pastor, I just wish I could SEE God!"* You Can!!!

When God wanted you to know Him...Stamped Himself on Human Flesh: Not just Part! 1:19; 2:9

Here is SOME of what you can SEE about God in Jesus (So much More)

- Forgiving: On Cross: Father Forgive them
- Accepting: Woman at well Rejected by everyone...Accepted by Jesus
- In Touch: Sees needs and meets them! (Feeding of 5000, Healing of Blind, Lame, Sick)
- Compassionate: Moved with compassion by the hurts and struggles we have.
- Overcoming: Resurrection Situation looked IMPOSSIBLE...WASN'T!

App: That is the God that Paul is writing about, One we see in bodily form in Jesus, One YOU can know
The God That will Forgive YOU; Accept YOU; Sees YOUR need, Cares for YOU...Bring Life!

2. Because Jesus is the "Creator" God, He HAS and CAN Make SOMETHING Out Of NOTHING! 1:16

Literally Paul writes by Him (By the power and work God everything that we see was made.

Create: *To manufacture; fabricate, to form or to make, put together*

Now, There is something here that I want to talk about for just a moment as we think about creation.

Gen 1:1 for Creation in Genesis: There was NOTHING...God Made SOMETHING!

To make SOMETHING out of NOTHING! He didn't take raw materials, rework them

There was NOTHING...Only God...Out of that NOTHING...He made something

We do not...and cannot do that! We have to have something to start with!

EX: Painter: Has paint, color, brush, canvas Musician, Instrument manipulate
God...Had NOTHING...and He made something!

Illus: Old Joke: Scientist comes to God one day, God...you are obsolete...We don't need you!

We have mapped DNA...We examined cellular structure...We understand How life works

We have cloned life...we can take it from here...Not needed any more

God says, OK...Let's have a contest...Each going to make a man, Reaches, Handful of dust

Scientist, not a problem, DNA, Spark of Life, EASY, *Reaches for dust, OH NO, MINE! Make own*

Listen to me now...The God that we know and serve...The One Paul is writing about...Creator God He can take NOTHING...and Make SOMETHING...So I have to ask you today... Got NOTHING? Feel like COVID has taken everything away: *Loved one, Finances, Health, Job, Thanksgiving, Hope?* Sit here feeling like you have NOTHING...listen know...THAT'S OK...You have Him: EVERYTHING Vs 16: By Him ALL things were created...From Nothing!

Illus: Pastor, You don't understand...You don't know how bad it is: Not even God...NOTHING! Even Thanksgiving Gone: I get it: 40 years ago...Sitting in an empty hotel room...Farmville NC... Had a warm can of beer...a cold can of Campbells soup...A heard heart: NOTHING else... Out of THAT nothing...God prodded, pulled, pushed twisted, turned moved: Created 40 yr ministry Hundreds of people have come to Jesus, thousands touched, challenged, Changed, Around World Because at that point I realized I HAD NOTHING; But He could take it...make it EVERYTHING From a cold can of soup...warm beer...and a Hard Heart What did we say EARLIER: JESUS PLUS NOTHING = EVERYTHING THAT IS CREATOR GOD At end of Service...challenge you...bring Him your NOTHING!

3. Because He Is The All Powerful God, He Holds Everything Together!

Vs 17

By Him All Things "hold together"

Lit = *to stand together, or hold together, or consist, to be held one to the other*

Now, here in this passage what Paul is talking about specifically is the creation around us...both the things that we SEE...the physical creation...as well as the things we don't see. Spiritual beings.

I want to take that concept...and expand on it just a little, and say to you...that's what Jesus does in the life of all of us that know Him and are His followers and disciples. He "Holds us together!"

- He does that with His Word! When we feel like everything around us is coming apart *This is why it is so important to be in the Word of God... (When storm swept by...) Before needed*
- He does that with His Spirit! When we feel like we can't take even a little more *This is why we have to stay in fellowship with Him. (That patience, endurance fm last week)*
- HE does that with His people! When we NEED someone...we lean into the church! *This is why we NEED to be a part of the family of God...a local church...surround Just today...talking with someone...they said...I just can't...I can...Lean on Me!*

Listen, I KNOW we are in the middle of a difficult time. COVID for 9 months Numbers are spiking, Finances are tight, Fears of health are all around us...Jobs lost, Families, Marriages struggling, Depression rampant, addictions are out of control...

We feel like we are coming apart...But listen to me...As we walk with Him, stay close, lean into: OK Heb 4:14-16

You may not be able to "hold it all together" But He can...And HE will...if you bring it to Him

CONCL: So, as we close this morning...let me ask you...How are you doing? Thankful?

- You Don't have to wonder what God is like: He showed you in Jesus! Forgiving; Accepting; Compassionate; In Touch; Overcoming
- He can make something out of your nothing! All you have to do it come to Him! Bring Him whatever you have...as awful as it seems to be...Beer and Soup! Empty hands!
- He can help you hold it all together...He has been doing that since beginning of creation He can do that for you...As hopeless as YOU think it is...He is big enough

Prayer of Salvation

Father I know I am a sinner. Please forgive me for my sins.

I believe that your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ died to pay the price for my sins.

I trust Him now as my personal Savior and Lord.

I ask Him to come into my life and commit to follow Him all the days of my life as He gives me strength.

I know that you can take the broken pieces...even the nothing in my life...Make something

I can't do that God...I need you to....So today I give you what I have

God I feel like I can't keep it together even one more day...

I NEED you to help me...Come into my heart and life...

Give me strength beyond myself

Help be be...what I am not...and Help me Do what I cannot do

Thank you for hearing my prayer...and answering it.

Amen