

Our Image of God

Good morning church, I want to welcome you to our service today. If this is your first time joining us here on Sunday Online, we would like to welcome you to our service today and invite you to join us every Sunday for a weekly message.

Let us pray

Introduction

Last week we started a series titled "God is not mad with you?"

The Image

Today I want to talk to you about the image we have of God, and sadly many of us have the wrong image of God!

Once I started to see the big picture of God's plan for me and all of mankind, I realised that The IMAGE we had of God was wrong.

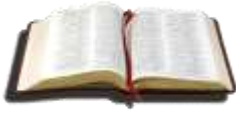
Sad through past experiences we have all had an image of God, whether, through our past experiences, worldly or religious beliefs that God is way out there not concerned with our wellbeing, and He is extremely mad at us for our sin, and to have a relationship with Him we must be perfect and Holy in every way. We must somehow do something, give something, sacrifice and fast or we need to do something to please/appease Him.

We often see God as an example of our earthly father or compared Him to an earthly experience. We see Him as unforgiving with a large stick waiting for us to do something wrong so that He can punish us! He never wants us to have any fun because it is sin. And Satan is having a field day with us believing this lie at God's expense.

This is sadly the truth of most religions today. Sadly these religions all have to work, do something special to obtain salvation, to somehow pay for their sins, and thereby obtain salvation and entry into heaven and sadly they never really know if they have done enough to appease their god.

Therefore these people that think this way, do not have complete confidence in their salvation, there are no guarantees because they never know if what they are doing is correct or acceptable because their god does not speak to them and tell them that they are loved and accepted.

Christianity is completely different from any other religion because of one MAN, Jesus Christ, who did everything for us and made a way for us to appease God by removing our sin and He has made us acceptable to God.



Jesus Christ through His Life, Death, and resurrection has made a way for any of His followers to be totally accepted by God and completely be seen as sinless by God.

All we need to do to receive this acceptance and forgiveness is to accept Jesus Christ's death for our sins, believe that this forgiveness through His Death on the Cross of Calvary is for us and only through Jesus Christ, and for each of us to apply our faith in Jesus Christ for the total forgiveness of our sins.

This wrong way of thinking was true in Jesus' time, people said, and thought in similar ways, that somehow our afflictions / bad fortune was caused by some kind of unforgivable sin we had committed, and that God was punishing us for the sin through this affliction.

John 9:1-10 *1 "As He went along, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world" 6 After saying this, He spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," He told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. 8 His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man."*

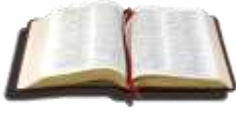
As we can see from this biblical story there is mentioned about the deaf man who came to Jesus to be healed. He had been deaf since birth and the people asked Jesus if this man or his parents had sinned that he was blind since birth?

Everyone with the wrong image of God asks similar questions when bad times come upon themselves or other people, what had I, what have they done wrong to be "punished" in this way by GOD?

What did Jesus say? It had nothing to do with his sin or anything else except that this all was so that God's Glory might be manifested in this blind man and to those around him.

Our Image of God needs to change! Yes, God is a Holy God and nothing impure can ever exist in His Holy presence, not even the slightest sin will be destroyed by His Awesome beauty and yes God hates sin.

However, God had a plan since the foundation of the universe but spoken of in **Genesis 3:15**, that God would send a Saviour, who would live as a normal Man, be tempted, and face all the issues we face on earth as a man, not God. So, Jesus Christ had all the limits we have, time, body needing rest and sleep, food, going to the toilet, and many other things and through all this He, Jesus Christ remained without any sin so that He could become the



ultimate Sacrifice for sin, He was the Lamb of God who takes away the SIN of the entire world – **John 1:36**

So, through Jesus Christ's obedience, even to Death, His Death and Resurrection paid the FULL PRICE for our SIN once and for all time!

God wants to manifest His Glory in your situation.

God wants to manifest His Glory in your situation and your life.

You are not in your situation today because of your sin or the sin of your forefathers. God has already poured out His Wrath that your sins deserved on Jesus Christ at the Cross of Calvary. It has been paid for it is FINISHED as Jesus said on the Cross!

You are in the situation you are facing today because it is an opportunity for God to be glorified through your life and your situation, so trust God and expect or see His manifested glory in your life.

You and I, we all have been created with the sole purpose of bringing glory to God! So, let us get radiant and start to shine in His Glory through our lives!

Message

As I close this part of the series, I want you to know it is only because of Christ and God's mercy and His grace to me that I stand before today and it is only through Christ's love and God's mercy that you are where you are today.

No one can boast about anything other than knowing Jesus Christ!

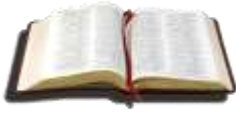
It is ALL about Jesus Christ and all for Jesus Christ so none of us can boast in anything but the Love and Glory of God and his Son Jesus Christ. It is ALL because of Jesus Christ that we are saved and accepted by God.

I also believe that no one is hearing this message by accident and that God has a special plan and purpose for your life and He has a special message for each of you today, and I believe that this series that "God is not mad with you!" Is a now Word from God for you!

We stand by the Gospel

The Gospel is this - Jesus Christ came to this world to live the perfect life as a MAN (**Matthew 1: 23**), to be tempted in every way and yet remain without sin so that He could be the Ultimate sacrifice for the SIN of Mankind.

Hebrews 4:14-16 Says it this way *¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then*



approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Jesus Christ needed to become that Atoning sacrifice, our scapegoat, by sacrificing His Life to pay the full price God's Wrath required for our SIN!

Jesus Christ died for SIN so that God could accept this single sacrifice of His Only Son as a FULL PAYMENT for the SIN for the entire world. All you must do is accept it!

God has punished Jesus Christ, the SIN Debt has been paid forever for ALL who call on the Name of the Lord Jesus will be saved **Romans 10:13** and God cannot and will never punish anyone who has accepts His Son for their sin, it has already been paid for!

When you accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour of you form your sin debt, you become His Child and your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life – **Luke 10:20, Philippians 4:3, and Revelation 13:8**

At the Cross of Calvary God punish Jesus Christ for our SIN, the SIN of the Entire Human Race, past present, and future.

It was a Perfect Sacrifice, why perfect? Because it was a Full Payment that was made for SIN and so it never has to be repeated. Christ has done it, once for all time, He obtained eternal redemption for us all.

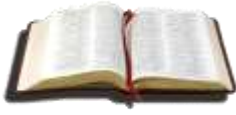
Hebrews 9:11-12. *"But now Christ has come as the high priest of the good things to come. He passed through the greater and more perfect tent not made with hands, that is, not of this creation, and he entered once for all into the most holy place not by the blood of goats and calves but by His own blood, and so he himself secured eternal redemption".*

God has chosen to deal with our sins many years ago at the foundation of the earth; he planned to put ALL our sins on His son Jesus Christ so that He could pay the price for SIN.

In **Romans 5:8-10**, it says *"But God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, because we have now been declared righteous by His blood, we will be saved through him from God's wrath. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, how much more, since we have been reconciled, will we be saved by His life?"*.

Before we even knew who God was, before we were even born or born again, actually before the foundation of this world, God's love was manifested through Jesus Christ for us.

This is VERY GOOD NEWS! But it is only Good News for those who receive it in faith. Each one of us must accept or reject this finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary for ourselves to obtain the full pardon for our sin.



Jesus Christ paid a debt none of us could pay by paying the FULL PRICE required by God for SIN.

Sin was a debt that none of us could pay for ourselves but if we reject this Salvation in Jesus Christ alone there is no forgiveness of our sin and the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ will have no effect on our lives and we will die in our sin without a means for Salvation and that is where God's wrath for sin will be seen as we are placed in an eternal place of separation from God and His presence called Hell and later the second death or separation which is the Lake of Fire.

What will you do with Jesus Christ today? The question is, will you accept Him and receive His forgiveness for your sin debt or reject Him. It is only your choice to make.

Let us pray