

Christ, The Express Image of God

Hebrews, a Book of Better Things

Introduction:

What we will discover in this study is that Christ, the Son of God, is the exact character of His Father. We will learn why the Father sent Him into the world, what Christ's mission was, and how it affects us eternally.

Christ is the "express image" of God:

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2) Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; 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;

Image: G. 5481. charakter, khar-ak-tare'; from the same as 5482; a **graver** (the tool or the person), i.e. (by implication) **engraving** ("character"), the figure stamped, i.e. **an exact copy** or (figuratively) representation): — express image.

God sent His Son into the world:

We can be assured of the love of God and His Son when we contemplate their condescension and sacrifice for us.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17) For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

Christ also "so loved the world:"

Hebrews 10:5 Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

Hebrews 10:7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

What was the Father's will?

In order to refute the accusations of Satan against God's character, God sent His Son to reveal to all creatures His true character which had been maligned by Satan. In the verse below we read that Christ declared that He had **finished** the work the Father had given Him to do even before He went to the cross. That work was to glorify [reveal] the Father's character. The knowledge of His character would give eternal life to all who would believe in them. The knowledge of God's character is life eternal. Why? Because the power of love compels us to expel the love of power that causes us to sin.

John 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up His eyes to Heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: 2) As thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given Him. 3) And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ,

whom thou hast sent. 4) I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Deuteronomy 5:10 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

God's children are destroyed for lack of knowledge:

It is the lack of knowledge regarding the truth of the mercy of God that causes God's children to reject Him and become lost. Christ must come to reveal God's true character of love. He alone has seen and known God, and only He can rightly represent Him.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Hosea 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

Satan, the god of this world hath blinded minds:

It was Satan who first deceived the minds of Adam and Eve regarding the character of the Father. However, we must conclude that the nature of sin itself is deceptive for we read that after Adam and Eve sinned, they hid themselves from God because they were afraid of Him. God did not change His mind toward them, but the very nature of sin brought to Adam and Eve guilt, shame and fear.

2Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 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.

God found a way to correct this misconception of His character by sending His Son to reveal God's true character in the life, death, and resurrection that we might have life eternal.

2Corinthians 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 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. 7) But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Christ reveals the truth regarding the Father's character:

Below are a few Scriptures spoken by Christ Himself correcting the misconception that the Father's character was different from His. When asked regarding the Father, Jesus said:

John 14:7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know Him, and have seen Him.

John 14:9 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?

John 10:30 I and my Father are one.

We were created for God's glory:

Not only were we created for God's pleasure, but we were created for His glory that we too might reveal the true character of God.

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Isaiah 43:7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

When Christ came revealing the love of God for His enemies, they crucified Him. They preferred and chose Barabbas who had murdered their enemies and Christ was crucified. But God had another plan to reveal His love and desire to save all who believed and desired to be saved, and that is through the witness of His church.

Isaiah 43:10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am He: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. 11) I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

Christ prayed that we would be one with them, in spirit and in truth. God would have all to know and believe that the Father had sent His Son to save, not condemn the world.

John 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21) That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22) And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23) I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

By beholding the true character of God, we are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, and from faith to faith.

2Corinthians 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.

Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

The gospel mystery planned by God and His Son from eternity past, and hidden by the god of this world, is the eternal purpose of God which is, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." The eternal purpose and promise of God is a new character reflecting Christ's and His Father's.

Colossians 1:25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; 26) Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: 27) To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Once this truth is manifested "to His saints," they are commissioned to preach the everlasting gospel, a world wide message, calling all to "Fear God, and give glory to Him."

Revelation 14:6 And I saw another angel [messenger] fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7) Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Revelation 18:1 And after these things I saw another angel [messenger] come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with His glory.

Christ is calling us to finish the work He has given us to do.

Isaiah 60:1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. 2) For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. 3) And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

When this work is finished by His saints, the whole earth will have revealed to them the true character of God through the witness of His saints, giving them an opportunity to be saved.

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

It will be only then that Christ can finally come and claim His bride and take them to His Father's house for the marriage supper.

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2) In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. 8) And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9) And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.