**Seeing God**

Judeintended to write an epistle about *“our common salvation,”* but *“the necessity to write”* an appeal that his audience *“contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints,”* v.3 prevailed instead. Perhaps I understand how he felt. I wanted to preach a sermon on *Fearing/Having Reverence for God,* but decided that although we certainly can *fear* what we cannot *see-* our imaginations often provide a picture much worse than the reality, *“Seeing God”* needed to come first. So…

John 1:18a empathically states that *“No man has seen God at any time;”* Deut.34:10 describes the relationship between God and Moses as *“face to face,”* but even Moses was only allowed to see the *“back”* of God’s *glory* after He passed by, cf. Ex.33:12-23.

We may sometimes find ourselves in a similar position as that of Moses… of wanting *see* the God we *serve* and *follow.* Indeed, many people today, somewhat like Thomas (cf. John 20:25b), refuse to *believe* in a God they say they cannot *see.*

**But we, and they,** **can *see* God! Here’s how:**

1. **God can be seen *through the Creation,* Rom.1:18-23.**

This *truth* must be *“suppressed”* (*katecho-* to *check* or *hold back a ship’s headway;* to *restrain, hinder,* or *hold back*) in order **not** to be seen. The only way we can **not** “see” God through the Creation is to *suppress* and *refuse* to accept the evidence, cf. Ps.19:1-6. The majestic beauty of a Spring sunset/sunrise, the brilliance of an Summer cloudless day, the gorgeous pallet of a Fall woodland, the purity and still quietness Winter’s snow-white blanket, the splendor and wonder of a billion twinkling stars, and the wondrously simple to the unfathomable complexity of millions of creatures both microscopic and immense, even *man* himself, all “show” us God. Through them, His *“eternal power”* (He is the first and only *uncaused Cause,* the *Eternal* that created the *temporal,* Heb.3:4), and His *“divine nature”* (His *goodness* and *graciousness-* He could have created a *gray-scale* world!) are ***“clearly seen”*** and ***“understood”*** through ***“what has been made,”*** vv.19-20! Indeed, “There is none so blind as him who will not see!” Only those who *“suppress the truth,”* ignore the obvious, and refuse to *honor* Him because of their *foolish, darkened hearts* can fail to “see” God in this way, cf. vv.18-19, 21-22.

1. **God can be seen *through His Word,* John 1:1.**

A simple question with a simple challenge: “What are ‘words’?” and please define them without using any of them. Words are *vehicles of thought.* They transport a thought or its expression from one mind to another. Skillfully utilized, they do so with wonderful *clarity,* specific *precision,* and eloquent *beauty.* Though grunts and gestures can convey general ideas and basic information, *words* can communicate everything from the mundane to the sublime… they even allow us to “see” God, John 1:1! When the Almighty *said* (and we *read*), *“Let there be light”* (Gen.1:1), the Universe not only began, it *heard, understood,* and *obeyed!* Grunts, groans, and gestures simply cannot produce such understanding or obedience. But *words* not only allow us to “see” God’s majestic power, they also show us His *attributes.*  His *Word,* the Bible, is filled from beginning to end with expressions of His *righteousness, goodness, grace, mercy, love, provision,* and even His *wrath.* These are not just *stories,* neither are they mere *factual accounts-* they are *revelations* of the *existence, nature,* and *prevalence* of God in the Universe, the World, Nature, and in Our Lives. Every Book, Chapter, and Verse- all composed of *words,* allow us to “see” God… **if** we will *read, understand,* and *heed* them, 1Cor.2:12-13.

1. **God can be seen *through the Man, Jesus Christ,* John 1:2-5,9-14.**

“God” is a *spirit,* John 4:24; and therefore to not only *worship* Him but also to “see” Him, we must do so *spiritually,* cf. 1Cor.2:14-16. But we have help. God the Father sent us a *corporal* or *in the flesh* “manifestation” of Himself in the *person* Jesus Christ. He is the *tangible representation* of God in *human form* (Col.2:9) that mankind could/can not only “see,” but also *touch,* and *experience* first-hand. But perhaps most importantly, Jesus *“explained”* God (John 1:18b) by being the *“exact representation of His nature,”* Heb.1:3. Jesus of Nazareth, allows us “see” the somewhat *abstract, spiritual* God in *“flesh and blood”* man who was *“made like His brethren in all things,”* Heb.2:14,17. Through Jesus, we “see” God- His *nature,* His *attributes,* His *compassion,* His *justice,* and most importantly, His *love,* John 3:16.

1. **God can be seen *through faithful Christians,* 2Cor.4:1-15.**

Note a few specific *words/phrases* from this text:

* *“ministry,”* v.1; a *work* or *mission* is under consideration;
* *“to every man’s conscience,”* v.2; the *object* or *mission field* if you will;
* *“veiled,”* v.3; even the gospel (words) can be *curtained/shielded* to some by Satan, or their own prejudices, desires, and rebellion;
* *“do not preach* ***ourselves*** *but* ***Christ Jesus*** *as Lord, and ourselves as* ***your bond-servants,”*** v.5; this is the *mission-* to manifest *“light out of darkness”* and to *“give the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ,”* v.6; to help others to “see” God and Christ ***through us;***
* *“treasure in earthen vessels,”* v.7; in context, this refers to Paul and other inspired teachers/writers; but today, it applies to us as *representatives* of Christ who manifest *“the surpassing greatness”* of the *“power of God.”*

So how do we help others “see” God? **By *being* and *doing* what vv.8-15 say!**  It’s not easy by any stretch of the imagination. But by acting/reacting and living in this way, ***“the life of Jesus”* (and therefore *God*) is *“manifested in our mortal flesh,”* v.11!**

**Conclusions:**

* **Every person has the capability to “see” God- not *literally,* but through *His Creation, His Word, His Son,* and *His People.***
* **Our job, or *ministry/mission,* is to help those willing to “see” Him in and through these means to do so.**
* **Therefore, show them God *in His Creation, of His Word,* and *through His Son,* and *in His People* so that they may “see” Him and live!**