



Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 6 Number 18

May 6, 2018

Image Worship

By Ross Ward

When we look at the remnants of ancient civilizations we find thousands of statues and memorials. It seems ancient man was fascinated or even obsessed with seeing, preserving, and even idolizing their image. It is arguable that this was done to promote praise and honor towards the subject and to preserve their presence for future generations. This brings to mind the nature of the one true God of the bible. From early in biblical history, God condemned creating and worshiping images, Exodus 20:4, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image," This not only forbid making images of a non-god, but this also applied to any images made to represent God himself. We probably all remember the story of the golden calf and the consequences of this great sin from Ex 32:4-5. It reads in part, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt... Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD." Arron called the golden calf, Elohim, the Hebrew word used in reference to the God. Even though Israel saw this image as being the God that brought them out of Egypt, God was greatly displeased. So it seems man has always been obsessed with being idolized. The true God condemns this, even if it is an image representative of Him.

The Avenue of FAITH?

By William "Bill" Sexton

In a Billy Graham column, some years ago, a person wrote they didn't believe in God, saying: "If God were real then he would answer my prayers, and I would be over all my problems. I don't see how anyone can believe in God when it is obvious we are on our own in life."

Billy wrote that he hoped that the man would not give up on God because God does love all and has not given up on him. He went on to quote Heb. 11:6 that one who comes to God must "believe that he is and that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Then Mr. Graham advised the person: "Begin by asking God for faith, because true faith is a gift from God." I have to disagree on this point, and challenge us to reflect for a bit in this regard.

1. Now if faith is a gift from God, and if God is impartial, (as the Bible claims He really is Acts 10:34-35), then why hasn't He given every person "faith"?
2. If faith is a gift and I can't do anything to earn a gift, then what can I do but wait and hope that something will happen that I'll get the gift?
3. If faith is a gift from God and man has to have faith to come to Him in order to be saved, then whose fault is it if one is lost?

The fact is, as I understand and can prove by inspired scripture, faith is possible for any person who will look honestly and deal energetically with the evidences available to him/her. Just as Heb. 11:6 tells us that one must "believe" in God in order to come to Him, that same source says: "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." (Rom. 10:17). This is a point of which all should be aware: there is ample evidence in nature to provide one with testimony that God is ever present in the creation (Rom. 1:21). The heavens declare His glory, manifesting His "handy work" (Ps 19:1-6). One is foolish (Ps 14:1) to either ignore or deny

the demonstration of God's presence in the universe. As has been said, however, "No one is so blind as he who will not see."

Effort, however, is necessary -- just as it is in learning of any important subject. If one will go back as far as he/she wished, nothing more simply yet clearly explains what we see today than: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Gen. 1:1).

If one reads of His dealings with people, one can see that man has always been somewhat rebellious, to his own injury. When one examines and accepts God's instructions, by obeying he/she is blessed greatly. When one dismisses such carelessly, pain and shame is experienced as well as being lost eternally. The evidence is adequate. Many things Jesus did are written that we may believe "that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing" we may "have life though his name" (Jn. 20:30-31). Beloved, the evidence is available and adequate. Man must examine that evidence, however, and commit him/herself to it. That's how faith comes, not miraculously.

When life comes to an end and one is required to stand before God, no one will be able to say I could not have known what was right or wrong. Many will be saying that who were religious, had been very busy, doing things and claiming that they were in the "name" of Jesus (Matt. 7:21ff), only to find they are rejected, having been deceived and thus wasted their time and energy -- lost eternally. -

Beloved, when one will look around in the universe, there is evidence that intelligence were involved in the production and maintaining the universe. Then the word of God is preserved in the Bible for mankind to study and find how He ever lives and provided THE WAY for each to be cleansed from his/her sins, serve Him faithfully, and be prepared for eternity, and life in HOPE!

If one chooses to be ignorant, and deny God's existence, that is his/her freedom to do so today. However, the time is coming when the truth will prevail! Believe in Jesus, Repent of sins, Confess Him and be baptized!

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Juanita, Brenda's aunt is recovering from a head injury from a fall.
- Shirley Torres, Seattle WA (Torres' have visited our congregation) is fighting cancer. Chemo treatments have not been successful. They have decided to stop the Chemo and pursue other treatments to help enhance her quality of life.
- Kass' Grandmother has been diagnosed with Lung Cancer.
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class tomorrow night 7:00pm at Chad and Kass' on evangelism
- Men's meeting after services today

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<u>Today</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Ross Ward Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell Sermon – David Porter	<u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward
<u>Next Sunday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Lord's Table – David Porter Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Next Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – David Porter Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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