

THE BULLETIN

THIS WEEK:

Sunday:
Bible Study & Worship
Monday:
Fl. School of Preaching Class
Tuesday:
Ladies Night Out
Wednesday:
Bible Study

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 16th –
Teen Devotional
January 23rd –
4th Sunday Fellowship Meal
February 25th – 27th
Yes Weekend

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE:

Month of January

Announcements:
Luther Honey

Singing:
a.m. – Mark Nortz
p.m. – John L
Wed. – Luther Honey

Prayer:
Leonard Sherouse

Bible Reading:

Preaching:
Doug Frazier

Lord's Supper:
Harry Collins
Cliff Jones
Tim Stanley
Ben Stokes

Prepare communion
Patty Honey

4th Sunday Fellowship:
January
Donna Lydon
Rhonda Howe
Tawny Collins
Angie Stokes

CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

By Wayne Jackson

The following article is the conclusion to an article that we started last week.

Image, Likeness

“Man” (the term is generic, inclusive of woman – v. 27b; Leupold, 1942, 94) is created in the “image” and “likeness” of God (see *Note). Most likely these two terms are examples of Hebrew parallelism, with no vivid distinction being made. Observe that humanity is not broken down into “kinds” (the term used 10 times in this chapter), as plants and animals are. The human family is “one” (Acts 17:26) — literally, “out of one male.” The Bible separates humans from animals by a vast impassible gulf. Pity the deluded soul who attempts to make a “marriage” between Genesis and Darwinism. Moses does not define what he means by the “image” of God, but certain logical conclusions may be deduced from companion portions of divine revelation.

“Image” has no reference to a **physical** likeness, as Mormonism alleges (B. Young, 1853, 238). God is “spirit,” not physical (Hosea 11:9; John 4:24; Luke 24:39; Matthew 16:17). Instead, there are various traits that separate humanity from all other forms of biological life.

Let us briefly illustrate this principle.

- (1) Aristotle characterized man as a **reasoning** creature. Animals operate by instinct, and they react. People “think.” And just as there are laws that regulate all spheres of nature, e.g., astronomy, physics, biology, etc., so there are laws that regulate human thought.

God said to Israel: “Come let us reason together” (Isaiah 1:18).

In his teaching, Paul “reasoned” with those who would listen (Acts 17:2, 17; 18:4, 19; 24:25).

A part of the package bequeathed by the Creator is our ability to think critically—though many have not cultivated the latent skill. That is partially the explanation for the vast conglomerate of religious confusion that clutters world society (cf. 1 Corinthians 14:33).

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(2) Another aspect of being in God's image is our **volitional** power, the ability to make choices, thus to honor the Lord with obedience instead of disobedience (Joshua 24:15). Some atheists deny we possess "free will"; supposedly we are merely victims of the forces of nature. Hardcore Calvinists similarly contend "human free will is a myth" (Storms, 1984, 80-81). It is argued that the "image of God" was destroyed in man's fall.

Such is refuted, however:

(a) by the fact that long after the "fall" murder was condemned on the ground that human life is sacred because mankind is "in the image of God" (Genesis 9:6);

(b) free will repeatedly is both affirmed and implied in the NT (cf. Matthew 23:37; John 5:39-40; Revelation 22:17).

(3) Humans have an innate sense of morality, i.e., an awareness there is a difference between "right" and "wrong." It is called "conscience." People may not identify the distinctions correctly, but generally they are unwilling to affirm that "nothing is wrong." C.S. Lewis began his book, *Mere Christianity*, with what he called "The Law of Human Nature." He contended that human speech is littered with daily phrases which appeal to a universal consciousness of moral principle. Statements like: "wait your turn," "don't pick on that poor soul," or "you have more than enough; you should share," reveal a moral sensitivity, a sense of "oughtness," or else the opposite. Paul appealed to this principle when he argued that even the ancient Gentiles, who had no written revelation from God, either were condemned or excused by a certain set of moral imperatives (Romans 2:14-15).

These three points are merely illustrative of others that could be mentioned. What an honor it is to know that we have the impress of the image of God within our minds, though many have attempted to erase all residue thereof by deliberate rebellion against their Creator. The noblest of earth, however, will "put on the new man, that after God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth" (Ephesians 4:24).

[Note: Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 11:7b does not conflict with Genesis 1:26-27. In the Corinthian letter he simply was emphasizing the historical facts of Genesis 2, namely that Adam was created directly from the dust of the ground, whereas woman came out of man. The **order** of creation is his point; not that different **natures** characterize the two genders (see Fee, 1987, 515).]

Sources/Footnotes

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ANNOUNCEMENTS**FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING:**

The Florida school of preaching class that is held on Monday nights has started again. Tomorrow will be the second class so come and join us in bible study.

SINCE YOU HAVE ASKED:

Mike Elledge is home now trying to recover from his recent heart attack. He has had a stint for one arterie that was 90 blocked. He also has a pacemaker to help with the damaged part of the heart. He continues to have other problems that he is trying to recover from. Our prayer is that he will gain his strength back soon and have many more years to preach the word of God.

CHILDREN'S HOME:

The truck from Valdosta came and picked up all that you donated to the children's home. Thank you all for all that you gave.

SICK AND/OR INJURED:

- Betty Hitchcock has been in the hospital for several days
- Ann Ewing was admitted to Shands this past week with a head injury she sustained while she was in Washington visiting her son. She seems to be making good progress. She is now at Shands Rehabilitation Hospital on 39th Avenue near Santa Fe College. She is in room 1916.
- Continue to remember Shirley Kirby, Sherrelle Kendrick, Carolyn Canady (Rhonda's Mom), Jean Gause, James Harrison, Rhonda Howe, Betty Purvis (friend of Betty Hitchcock), Cristy Butts (cousin of Randy Howe), Edward Brown (cancer building at Shands).

BUDGET PLANNING: See the proposed budget on the bulletin board. Make any suggestions that you have to Ray or Luther.

YES WEEKEND:

It is time to start planning our annual YES weekend trip to Valdosta. YES is scheduled for February 25th-27th. Please put these dates on your calendar. There is a sign up sheet posted in the back for those who are interested in attending. The Theme is "IT IS TIME..... TO OBEY, TO LOVE, TO CHECK ATTITUDES, TO SERVE, TO WORSHIP, TO CHOOSE." Please see Jessica if you have any questions regarding the trip.

SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION:**LADIES NIGHT OUT:**

We will be having LNO on Tuesday January 11th at 7:00PM. We will be meeting at Pomodoro Café, 9200 NW 39th Avenue, Gainesville (In the Publix Shopping Center near I-75). Please let Jessica know if you plan on attending.

TEEN DEVOTIONAL:

We will be having a teen devotional after PM services on January 16th.

PRE-TEEN DEVOTIONAL:

Thanks to everyone who attended the pre-teen devotional yesterday. We had an enjoyable time and discussed the Fruit of the Spirit, Kindness.

CAMPING: See Donna about the annual camping trip that our young people take every year. We need to make reservations early in the year because camp sites will book quickly after the first of the year.

TO OUR VISITORS

It is our sincere desire to help all men and women understand what God's will is for their life. Here at the Alachua Church of Christ, we stand ready and willing to help you with any needs you may have. Here are just a few of the services we offer: Marriage Counseling, Family Counseling and Addiction Counseling, free audiotapes of any lesson and In-home Bible Study. Feel free to make your request know. Ask any member of the congregation.

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Meeting Times:
Sunday Morning
Bible Study: 9:30
Worship: 10:30

Sunday Evening
Worship: 5:30

Mid-Week Bible Study
Wednesday 6:30

From Doug's Desk

Young people are often over looked but they need to know that they are very important to our congregation. The youth here at Alachua are important to the church's future. We all need to encourage them. Young people need to set the right example at school, around their friends and even in the church. First Timothy 4:12 tells us, "Let no one look down on your youthfulness but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity show yourself an example of those who believe." By doing these things you set a good example for everyone that you are around. We should also encourage them to choose the right friends. In First Corinthians 15:33 we read, "Do not be deceived, bad company corrupts good morals." Make sure the friends that you hang around with are doing the right things and making the right choices in life. Sure everyone makes a wrong decision from time to time, we all make mistakes, but there is a difference in making one bad decision and choosing the wrong type of life to live. Young people you are important to the congregation here at Alachua and I urge you to be the right example at all times.

Sunday Morning Lesson – The Redemption Story

1. Jesus _____ bore our sins.
2. Not only did Jesus die _____ for each and every one of us, he also died _____ for each of us.
3. Jesus was _____ with the plight of man.
4. Jesus was the _____ one.
5. Jesus was our _____.
6. Our redemption did not come without a _____.
7. When it comes to Jesus we can truly say his _____ was our _____.

Sunday Evening Lesson – The Life of Paul

1. Paul caused much _____ upon the early church.
2. Havoc can be described as _____ and _____.
3. Paul says in I Timothy 1:13, that he acted this way because of _____ and _____.
4. Paul also had misguided _____.
5. Even though Paul was wrong in his actions he did show _____ and _____.
6. As you look at Paul's life you will notice him moving from being one who caused much havoc to the church into one who became a great _____ of the church.
7. Paul often spoke of the _____ that he possessed.

We're on the Web!

alachuachurchofchrist.org