



## Once a year, or all year?

Roy, the Christmas tract is very good. Thank you for sharing it with us. However, we cannot 'post it' for the world to read without removing the image.

*I know everyone does not interpret images the same, but first impressions are hard to overcome. I don't know if I am looking at a man or a goat. :)<sup>1</sup> You and I have been seen as goats, but we are sheep in God's sight. We must strive to let the world see us as God does.*

Joyner

Continued...

All year versus once a year is good Christmas doctrine, also the unseen image for all to see and know is very good. It is sad that the baby Jesus gets the limelight once a year with (Santa Claus) Saint Nicholas; the best known saint of the Christian Church.

If you desire readership for a Christmas tract, put a picture of Santa Clause on it.

I will tell Mac to post it up after making three alterations.

Just wondering: If we posted the photo of Saint Nicholas from the 5<sup>th</sup> Century A.D., would it be recognized anymore than yours? If we had a photo of Jesus from the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, would it look like the one on the wall at Sunday School?

If we had an image of Moses would it look like Charleston Heston? If we had a picture of Cleopatra would it look like Elizabeth Taylor?

If we have an image of God in our imagination does it resemble The God of the Bible?

Your tract presents a good argument for the prohibition of images.

More wonderings:

The creator made the Creature in His own image which of course is Spiritual like God, the Creator. Then man the creature, not knowing God, began to make the Creator God in his own image which to man is physical because that is all that he can see for a pattern.

Why did the Creator use His own image to icon Himself? There must be a reason. Why does God have only one image for Himself while man makes so many?

Adam and Jesus were icons made by God to image Him but Adam was in the Kingdom of God planted in Eden while Jesus was in the Kingdom of Man planted in Judea. Jesus was seen by man; Adam was seen only by God.

Adam had dominion over his kingdom but Jesus never reigned until He restored Adam's kingdom. Jesus can no longer be seen by man. He can only be seen by God and those in The Kingdom.

We see many images of God made by those in the Moses religion of Judaism as well as the Jesus religion of Christianity. We can see why God forbids man to make his own religion because then he will form a God for it and claim authenticity.

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<sup>1</sup> :) Roy and Joyner were hauling four goats in a station wagon on the interstate - being observed by motorists as six goats.

This prohibition found in the Ten Commandments of God to His people. It has no application to atheist whatsoever, because they have no religion to obey; nor a god to image.

We often see atheist profiding a better image of God in their lifestyle than religious people. How can those who do not know God provide a better image of Him than those who claim to know Him?

Personally, I believe a case can be made to show that certain stoic philosophy by some Greeks provide a better icon for God in Zeus than we find in any religion.

Zeus is an image of man but the character attributed to him and the will and purpose that he has in creation are more like the God of the Bible than what we find in Bible religion.

Jesus was the Son of Adam (man) (not men) having a visible image like that of Zeus created by man which is visible for observation. Paul encountered many Divine Images in Athens; even some without a name and personality.

Fallen man is inclined to idolatry because he lives by sight with a carnal mind looking at things which can be seen.

Jesus was also the Son of God who was so much like His Father God spiritually, that He could say to the Sons of men, "Look and Live, Look and see," a true image of God. When you look at me you see God.

No icon made with men's hands could say this. Not because they are dumb; but because they do not image the Likeness of God.

If idols did talk it would be with words put into their mouth by their creators. Man should not put words into the mouth of His God, especially if God is his Father.

The Bible God seeks to put words into the creation and the creature. His words in creation declare the Glory of God for all creatures to see. But his word in man rarely glorifies God.

The word made flesh at Christmas time grew in statue for all the see.

He found favor in the eyes of man and God until he began a spiritual work which man did not see.

Fallen spirits recognized him because they had seen God and knew who Jesus was. Carnal observation cannot perceive spiritual activity. Therefore no man saw the work of Jesus to save the world.

Maybe the Disciples should have waited for Jesus to return from the Neitherlands (underworld) before they packed up to leave Jerusalem. He told them He would be out of sight for a few days on a mission from His Father to get a Kingdom for them.

Maybe we also should wait for a spiritual report from the Easter Jesus before we try to profile the carnal life of the Christmas Jesus. Such a report did arrive with The Gospel committed to Saul, a Chief Ruler in the Jews religion.

Jesus is the best icon that God has ever had on planet earth, but the image is spiritual for spiritual eyes only to see.

How did Santa Clause and Easter rabbits get into the picture with Jesus? It is too late to keep them out and difficult to get them out. But, we can keep Roy out.

Sorry Roy.

*Joyner*

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