

The Four Faces

SEEING THE FACE OF CHRIST

Class 2

The Face of a Man

Jars of Clay

Christ was mortal like we are. Tempted by the same temptations as we are... Yet without sin. We must become aware of our sinfulness and mortality, and accept the victory over sin that our Lord provides.

• Philippians 2:1-11

- 1) If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,
- 2) Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.
- 3) Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.
- 4) Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.
- 5) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
- 6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
- 7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
- 8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
- 9) Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
- 10) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;
- 11) And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- 12) Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
- 13) For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.
- 14) Do all things without murmurings and disputings:
- 15) That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;
- 16) Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

- 17) Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.
- 18) For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.
- 19) But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.
- 20) For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.
- 21) For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.
- 22) But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.
- 23) Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.
- 24) But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.
- 25) Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.
- 26) For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.
- 27) For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.
- 28) I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.
- 29) Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:
- 30) Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

- Our purpose this week is to consider the Four Faces of the Cherubim, and see in them the Face of Christ
- To learn from these four different aspects of Christ, so that we can better reflect his (and God's) character in our own lives...

- Ezekiel 1:10

- 10) As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

- The First Face that we see in the Cherubim is the Face of a Man...
- *Why a Man?*
- What does the Face of a Man represent?
 - It's not like trying to figure out what an Eagle represents...
 - Clearly, a Man represents a Man...
- But, why would God chose this symbol?
- I think that we will see that a proper understanding of who we are is the essential first step in our walk in Christ

- Acknowledging our position before God
 - And, our position in relation to God
 - Is crucial to our development as followers of Christ
- We must all accept that we are sinners in desperate need of mercy and grace
- We must all accept that we are Mortal Men to begin the process of change
- And, that is why God shows us the Face of a Man first...
 - Because that is where we all need to start...
- And, when we look at the Face of Jesus we should also see the Face of a Man
- The word for Man, of course, is Adam...
- That's where we'll start...
- Genesis 1:26-28
 - 26) And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
 - 27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
 - 28) And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

26) *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness*
- It's incredibly hard for me to even relate to God under these terms...
 - To even begin to think of God in relation to having the image of a Man...
 - Or to think of myself as being in the image of God...
- I think that God knew it would be hard for us to see Him in this manner...
- And, that is why He gave us His Son...
- Christ's mortal existence on this Earth is the key to our properly understanding who God is...
 - Who we are
 - And who we should be

- We need to first learn what a Man truly is...
 - Or rather, what a Man ought to be...
- That's the reason I had us read Philippians 2 this morning...
- Let's take a few minutes to look at it...
 - You see, Verses 6 through 8 were always confusing to me
- Philippians 2:6-8 (Speaking of Jesus...)
 - 6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
 - 7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
 - 8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
 - Most Christians tend to misapply these verses to talk about the Trinity
 - As Christadelphians we tend to concentrate on trying to prove that Jesus isn't God...
- But, I always felt that there must be a lesson in there somewhere that I was missing...
 - Look at how it starts!
 - **NIV 1)** *If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,*
 - **NIV 2)** *then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.*
 - **NIV 3)** *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.*
 - **NIV 4)** *Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*
 - **NIV 5)** ***Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.***
 - There has to be an important message here for us...
 - Not just a "Wrested Scripture"...
- Paul is speaking about the ATTITUDE of Christ
 - Not the Nature of Christ...
- He is exhorting us to be like Christ...
- One word from the NIV in verse 6 started me down a completely different path...
 - **NIV 6** - "did not consider equality with God something to be **grasped**"

- The word “**grasped**” leaped out at me...
 - The word “**grasped**” helped me to see an important message...
- The word, “**grasped**” made me think of Adam and Eve in the Temptation in the Garden...

- *Grasping for the Fruit*

- Genesis 3:1-6

- 1) Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
- 2) And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
- 3) But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.
- 4) And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
- 5) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods**, knowing good and evil.
- 6) And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she **took** of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

- What was the temptation that the Serpent used?
 - What was the reward offered to them?
 - Eternal Life?
 - Happiness?
 - Peace?
 - NIV (Verse 5) - “**You will be like God!**”
- You see, Adam and Eve thought that “equality with God (was) something to be **grasped**”
- They thought that they could be equal with God...
 - To be like God
 - To Be God!
- That was the sense of the temptation...

- That was what the serpent was playing off
- Genesis 3:5
 - **NIV 5)** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.
- Look! God is portrayed as the Deceiver here...
 - “God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened...”
 - *“God knows that you will be able see things the way He does.”*
 - *“He doesn’t want you thinking for yourself.”*
 - *“He’s just trying to keep you in the dark.”*
 - *“He doesn’t want you to be empowered... To exercise your own personal rights and freedoms.”*
- So, Adam and Eve reached out and grasped at it...
- And, they fell to the temptation of the Serpent...
- ***I BELIEVE that this is the exact same temptation faces each and every one of us!***
 - I can hear the whole group thinking, ***“What?”***
 - “I don’t want to be like God.”
 - “I don’t consider equality with God something to be grasped!”
 - “How does this apply to me?”
- God is (in one sense)... The Great Rule Maker... The Law Giver
 - God is the final and ultimate authority in all things...
 - God is the Creator of each one of us, and the Creator of the entire universe
 - God set the courses of the Heavens and the bounds of the deep
 - God is supreme, omnipotent, and everywhere present
 - God makes up all the rules
 - This Bible is... God’s Law... A book of rules...
- Our **ONLY** choice in life is to obey God...
 - Or die...

- Our **ONLY** choice is to follow what the Bible teaches...
- There is no further discussion on that topic...
 - That's it... It's that simple...
- I believe that the First Commandment teaches this same lesson...
- Exodus 20:1-6
 - 1) And God spake all these words, saying,
 - 2) I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
 - 3) Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
 - 4) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
 - 5) Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
 - 6) And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
- According to Jewish Tradition, the Commandments are divided at Verse 2, instead of Verse 3
 - The First Commandment, therefore is...
- Exodus 20:2
 - 2) I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
 - ***I am the LORD thy God!***
- Why do I bother making this distinction, you ask?
 - I think that in order to begin to obey Commandments 2 through 10...
 - You have to properly understand #1
- The First Declaration of God, then is...
 - ***I am the LORD thy God!***
- This establishes the Authority of God to make any Commandments at all
 - If we don't first accept God as Divine, as Supreme, as the ultimate source of all right and wrong...
 - We wouldn't have to listen to what he says

- These are not the Ten Suggestions!
 - We are not at liberty to obey, or disobey, depending on how we feel about what God tells us to do
- This First Commandment, therefore, establish the precedent of the basis of our relationship with God
- In our continuing relationship with God, we must approach Him in this manner...
 - God wants us to understand and agree with His Will and plan for us...
 - **But, even if we don't... He is still GOD**
 - We must accept our position before Him
 - We cannot successfully challenge God's Authority...
 - In all parts of our life we have to acknowledge His supremacy over us
- You have to accept God as Supreme and subject your will, your thoughts, your ideas, your whole LIFE to Him
 - Unconditionally and Wholly...
- *But, what do we do instead?*
 - We make our own little rules
 - We say, *"Yeah, but..."*
 - *"Sure, the Bible says that, but you really can't expect me to do it that way..."*
 - We modify and change God's Laws to fit our own "special circumstances"
 - *"Well, I know that what God says, but in this circumstance, I think it would be okay to do it this way..."*
 - We alter, rationalize and compromise God's Laws so that they fit "Reality"
 - *"Be realistic! God wouldn't want you to have to live like that. I'm sure it would be okay if you just did it this way..."*
 - Sometimes, we even completely ignore some of God's Laws, and make up some of our own out of pure "Common Sense"
 - *"As long as I just do this, then it will be okay..."*
- Did you notice Eve doing the same thing?

- Genesis 3:1-3

- 1) Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
- 2) And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
- 3) But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

- She had thought that making additional rules for herself would help her resist the temptation...

- Colossians 2:20-23

- 20) Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,
- 21) (Touch not; taste not; handle not;
- 22) Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?
- 23) Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body: not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

- She thought that making more rules would help to “check the indulgences of the flesh”, but, not only is it unsuccessful, but it also attempts to establish yourself in the role of God...

- We make ourselves the Law Giver

- We make ourselves like God

- We don't want to subject ourselves to the Supreme Maker of the Universe

- We don't want to humble ourselves, and accept our position before God

- We think that equality with God is something that we can grasp

- Adam and Eve thought that “equality with God (was) something to be **grasped**”

- So they reached for it!

- And **DIED** as a consequence

- Adam and Eve are held up as an example of this all through the Scriptures

- Mankind...

- Trying to be like God...

- Grasping for Equality...

- And failing dreadfully...

- Too often we follow in the same footsteps...
 - We fight the same battle on the same battlefield that they did...
 - *“We just want to be able to think for ourselves.”*
 - *“We just want to be able to figure it out for ourselves.”*
 - *“We just want to exercise our own personal rights and freedoms”*
 - We grasp for equality with God...
 - And, like the First Man, we will fail if we attempt this...
- Fortunately, we are not left with only this poor example...
 - We are told of a Second Adam... A Second Man
- 1st Corinthians 15:45-49
 - 45) And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a life giving spirit.
 - 46) Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.
 - 47) The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.
 - 48) As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.
 - 49) And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.
- The First Man was simply a living soul..
 - The Second Adam was able to give life
- Like in all things...
 - The first was not Spiritual
 - The First Man was Earthly, Carnal, Base
 - The Second Adam was Spiritually minded, Heavenly, Righteous
- Let's look further at Philipians 2
- Here we see the face of a **REAL** MAN, Jesus Christ, who:
 - **NIV** 6 - “did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.”
- He didn't challenge God's authority...
 - He didn't put himself and his own desires above God's...

- He didn't attempt to "change the rules" to fit his circumstances
- **NIV** 7 - "but made himself nothing, taking on the nature of a servant, being made in likeness of men."
- **NIV** 8 - "And being found in the appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!"
- That is the Face of a Man
 - That is the Face that we need to represent in our lives...
- The Gospel of Luke gives us the clearest picture of Christ as a Man...
- The Genealogy found in Luke 3 extends all the way back to Adam
 - As if Luke clearly wants to establish Jesus as a Mortal Man
- Luke gives us the fullest picture of Christ's birth and childhood
 - With Luke trained as a Physician, he would be best equipped to write about the Human body and condition
- God chose this man to record the history of His son's life
 - To record it in a certain light...
 - To show Jesus as the Man, struggling with the same temptations and trials as we do...
 - When I think of Christ "humbling himself and becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross..."
- I think most poignantly of Luke's account of this last struggle of our Lord...
- Let's look at this together...
- Luke 22:39-47
 - 39) And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.
 - 40) And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.
 - 41) And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,
 - 42) Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.
 - 43) And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.
 - 44) And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

- 45) And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow,
- 46) And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.
- 47) And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him.

- **NIV 39)** *“Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives”*

- In Luke’s Gospel you find the most references to Jesus praying...

- Because Prayer is a picture of man’s proper relationship to God
- Jesus reflects this dependence upon a sovereign, omnipotent God

- Luke 22:40

- 40) And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

- He knew that Gethsemane would present an extreme test...
 - Not just for him, but for them also
- A test to be met not with their own strength, but with the help of God
- Likewise, Jesus calls us to the same action...
- **NIV 40)** *“Pray, so that you will not fall into temptation.”*

- Luke 22:41

- 41) And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

- That Jesus brought his Disciples with him into the garden emphasizes how truly Jesus shared the weakness of human nature in his need for fellowship
- But, that Jesus withdrew alone to pray emphasizes how clearly he understood that man’s only help and deliverance comes from God
- We noticed how far he withdrew, right?
 - A stone’s throw...
- Remember what famous stone was thrown long ago?
 - Remember whose head was cut off and buried in Jerusalem?

- In the “Place of the Skull”?

- In Golgotha?

- Luke is making a clear reference here back to a type of Christ, and his victorious battle against sin...

- Luke 22:42

42) Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

- In these words is summed up what I am trying to say...

- I feel that this is the whole lesson for us to understand today...

- ***Not my will, but thine, be done!***

- He shouted it!

- **NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE, BE DONE!**

- I know that he shouted...

- Hebrews 5:7

- **NIV 7)** ...he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

7) Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared

- This is the crucible where Christ was tested...

- These are the loud cries and tears of man facing the end

- *“and he was heard because of his reverent submission”*

- God heard him...

- He didn't let the cup pass from him...

- But, He heard him

- Hebrews 5:8

8) Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered

- God heard him...

- But Jesus was obedient and suffered anyway

- He subjected his will to God

- Luke 22:43

43) And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

- An angel came to minister unto him

- But the end had to come...

- Luke 22:44

44) And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

- How much more a perfect picture of The Face of Jesus as a Man do we need?

- Praying

- Crying

- Sweating as it were great drops of blood

- This example of Jesus is quite telling...

- He who was, in so many ways, better than us...

- Yet he humbly accepted his position before God as a man...

- He lowered himself to accept death...

- The curse of flesh and blood

- To die on our behalf

- Hebrews 2:14

14) Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

- Jesus attempts to teach us to accept the same thing...

- Unless we acknowledge that we are not Gods

- Unless we accept that we are weak, sinful, mortal, dying men

- We cannot even begin to accept the salvation that God offers us
- It's a humiliating, sobering, shameful thing to try to accept...
 - From our childhood we have been taught to:
 - "Take care of yourself"
 - "Watch out for yourself"
 - "Work it out yourself"
 - We are ingrained in the doctrines of self-help, self-realization and self-fulfillment
- To truthfully and honestly recognize that you are nothing
 - That without Christ you are without hope
 - That without God's grace and mercy your best efforts fail miserably...
- This brings us to our knees
 - This humbles us...
 - This brings us to the position that God wants us
- Micah 6:8
 - 8) He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?
- Isaiah 66:2
 - 2) For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.
- The true position of a Man before God is humble...
 - Not thinking more of ourselves than we ought to...
- But, God will not leave us there...
- God will exalt us...
 - God will lift us up...
- James 4:10
 - 10) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

- But only if we abase ourselves first...
 - Only if he sees the Face of a Man in us also...
- This is the attitude of Christ
 - This should be our attitude also...
- 1st Corinthians 15:48-49
 - 48) As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.
 - 49) And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.
- We must bear the image of Jesus
 - We must pattern our lives after the Face of a Man
 - Not saying, “Yeah, but...”
 - Not saying “Sure, the Bible says that, but...”
 - Not changing God’s Laws to fit our own desires
 - Not making ourselves equal to God
 - But recognizing God’s position
 - Recognizing God’s authority
 - “Making ourselves nothing”
 - “Taking on the nature of a servant”
 - “humbling ourselves”
 - “becoming obedient - even unto death...”
- We must look closely at the Face of the Man
 - The Man who realized that he had to do his Father’s will... Not his own...
 - The Man who realized that he had to follow God’s rules...
 - Follow God’s plan for his life...
 - Not work out his own plans...
- I don’t think that the first face on the Cherubim is a Man in order to teach us something about God...

- I think that God represented himself in the Face of a Man in order to teach us something about ourselves...
- Our very first job in life is to recognize who we are
 - What position we are in before the Lord of all the Earth
- Before we can move on to become what God wants us to be...
 - He first requires that we learn to accept what we really are...
- Look how Paul explains it to the Corinthians...
- 2nd Corinthians 4:6-10

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.

- We learn of the Glory of God by looking into 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.

NIV 7) *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*

- Why did God chose the Face of a Man?
 - Why does God store his Treasure in Jars of Clay?
 - Why bother to concern himself with such weak, pitiful creatures?
- To show that this *all-surpassing power is from God and not from us*
- To demonstrate His greatness
 - But making something GOOD out of a terrible sinner like me...
 - Without God...
 - I would be useless...
 - But, after behold the Face of Christ
 - After having the Light of the Knowledge of Christ shine in my heart...
 - God can bring forth good...
 - Even out of someone like me!

• 2nd Corinthians 4:8-10

- 8) We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;
- 9) Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

• Living the life of a Man is not easy...

• But, with God on our side, we will not be defeated by it!

- 10) Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

NIV 10) *We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.*

• We need to continually remember our example...

• We need to constantly remember the Face of Christ

• If we continue to remember his sacrifice on our behalf

• Then we will continue to live a life worthy of that sacrifice

• What does it mean to be a Jar of Clay...

• God speaks to Jeremiah about the Jars of Clay...

• Jeremiah 18:1-10

- 1) The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,
- 2) Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.
- 3) Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.
- 4) And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.
- 5) Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
- 6) O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.
- 7) At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it;
- 8) If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them.
- 9) And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it;
- 10) If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.

• A fundamental aspect of understanding what it is to be a Man

- And a key to remembering our position before our Father
 - Is to never forget who made who...
- God is the Potter, and we are the Jars of Clay...
 - He didn't chose us because of OUR Greatness...
 - On the contrary, He chose us because of our Weaknesses...
 - In order to show forth he Greatness
- Paul continues with this reasoning in Romans 9
- Romans 9:20-21
 - 20) Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?
 - 21) Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?
- Remember, you are not God...
 - You are a Man...
 - God chose to store this priceless treasure in Jars of Clay to show His Greatness
 - To show how superior His ways are over our ways...
- 1st Corinthians 1:25-31
 - 25) Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.
 - 26) For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:
 - 27) But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;
 - 28) And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:
 - 29) That no flesh should glory in his presence.
- Am I special?
 - Is that why God has chosen me out of all the people in the world?
 - Yes... But, not for the reasons that I may think...
- I was chosen for my foolishness...

- Because I was lowly...

30) But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

31) That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

NIV 30) *It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.*

NIV 31) *Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”*

- If we are boast about anything...

- We don't boast about how great we are...

- We are just lowly men...

- If we are to boast, we should boast about how great Christ is...

- That he is able to make us into something that we weren't

- A REAL MAN, who understood that you can't make your own rules

- The only way to claim a victory over sin is to follow God's commandments

- **WE** can think of no better way on our own

- Our “natural tendencies” lead us in the wrong direction

- I often think of the Bumper Sticker that says,

- *“My best thinking got me where I am today”*

- The First Step in any 12 Step program is to acknowledge a higher power

- To realize that you are not the top of the food chain

- To realize that the world doesn't revolve around you

- That your own personal happiness is not the most important thing on the planet

- One of the hardest things to do is to accept the FACT that we can NOT solve our own problems...

- That by the grace of God, we need his help in order to survive...

- For me, a helpful way to remember this is to remember the principle we came upon earlier...

- The Natural is First, and the Spiritual is Second...

- 1st Corinthians 15:46

46) The spiritual (does) not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.”

- We are created like the first Man

- Our natural tendency, our natural reaction is to sin...

- But, we are also created like the Second Adam...

- Our Lord Jesus who shared in our nature...

- We must strive to be like this Second Man

- We must follow our “Second Nature”

- We must learn to develop a “Second Sense”

- Never do the first thing that comes into your mind...

- “Measure Twice, Cut Once”

- “Think Twice, Do Once”

- We need to change our way of thinking, our attitude, our personality, so that we think like Jesus, and not like Adam...

- Romans 12:1-2

1) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- Don't be conformed to this world's patterns...

- Don't live up to the image of a Man that is projected at you from the media, the education system, and corporate life

- It is only through putting off this “Old Man”

- Our ways of the First Adam

- Our First reactions

- And putting on the “New Man” - The ways of Christ

- That we will ever be true servants of God...

- God has shown us the way that we should go
 - He gave us an example of the First Man, who failed and was punished
 - He gave us a better example of the Second Man, who triumphed and was rewarded
- The Face of a Man, Our Lord Jesus, who says to us today,
 - “For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done”
 - We need to follow the this Man and his example to us...
- God will not consider us lowly and worthless forever...
 - He will exalt us and make us great
- We can share in the Glory of Christ, but we first have to share in his Humanity
- Ephesians 2:1-9
 - 1) And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
 - 2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
 - 3) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.
 - 4) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
 - 5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
 - 6) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
 - 7) That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.
 - 8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
 - 9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.
- It's nothing that we do...
 - It's not a matter of us “earning” anything by our works...
- It's simply an acknowledgement of a gift from God...
 - A gift only offered to those who appreciate and accept their position
- A gift that God gives us that is most precious...
 - The gift of salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ

- Christ is the perfect mediator for our salvation

- Having fully experienced what it is to be a Man

- Hebrews 2:14-18

- 14) Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

- Jesus experienced the same Flesh and Blood as we do...

that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

- 15) And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

- 16) For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

- It isn't the Face of an Angel that saves us...

- It's the Face of a Man

- 17) Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

- 18) For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

- Because of his accepting the position of a Man...

- He is able to come to our aid

- He is able to help us

- Romans 5:18-19

- 18) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

- 19) For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

- When we see the Cherubim, it's the Faces that stand out to us...

- Ezekiel 1:10

- 10) As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man...

- The First Face that we see is the Face of a Man

- When we see the Face of a Man in the Cherubim...

- We should see the Face of a Man in Christ...
 - We should see the Face of the Man in ourselves...
- It's purpose is to help us acknowledge our position before God
- To accept that we are sinners in desperate need of mercy and grace
- To accept that we are Mortal Men... and not God
 - And that we need the salvation that comes through another Man
 - Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...
- 1st Peter 2:21-24
 - 21) For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:
 - 22) Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:
 - 23) Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:
 - 24) Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
- *There... The depressing part is out of the way...*
 - It's hard to look at that face...
- But, when we look at the Face of Jesus tomorrow,
 - We will look at the Face of a King
 - But, not just any King...
 - A King-Priest
- Closing Hymn:

WHEN MY LOVE TO GOD GROWS WEAK