

# THE IMAGE OF CHRIST

Scripture Reading: 2Corinthians 3:14-18

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Introduction:

1. We all have different role models we look up to and desire to be like.
2. The greatest of all these role models should be Jesus.

P. We desire for others to see Jesus reflected in our lives.

I. How is Jesus reflected in our lives?

T. In this lesson, we will examine 3 ways Jesus is seen in us:

## **I. THROUGH OUR LOVE**

### **A. CONSIDER THE WORLD PERSPECTIVE**

1. The world loves and cares until one no longer fits.
2. E.g. -The Prodigal Son:
  - a. He lived it up for a while.
  - b. The money ran out, a famine was in the land, and his friends were gone.

### **B. THE CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE**

1. By our love others will know we are His disciples -Jn 13:34, 35
2. We help one another (unlike the world) -Ja 2:14-ff; 1Jn 3:16, 17; Mt 25:31-46
3. Love your enemies -Mt 5:43-48

## **II. THROUGH OUR INFLUENCE**

### **A. JESUS HAD GREAT INFLUENCE**

1. During a three-year ministry, Jesus has had more influence than anyone else!
2. John wrote about His incredible influence -Jn 21:25

### **B. CHRISTIANS ARE SALT / LIGHT -Mt 5:13-16**

1. Both are agents of influence
2. Salt is a preservative
3. Light is a revealer of the path before us

### **C. CHRISTIANS STAND FOR THE TRUTH**

1. We are to grow to maturity -He 5:12-14
2. We are not to be tossed about by every wind of doctrine -Ep 4:14
3. We contend earnestly for the faith -Ju 3

### III. THROUGH REFINEMENT

#### A. JESUS WENT THROUGH SUFFERING -Heb 5:5-9

1. Jesus is not being “refined” as to make better; He was already perfect.
2. Jesus suffered in the flesh because He was righteous -cf. 1Ti 3:12

#### B. WE WILL GO THROUGH SUFFERINGS ALSO

1. Paul desired to live godly and suffered
  - a. His sufferings -2Co 11:22-33
  - b. His “thorn in the flesh” -2Co 12:7-10
2. We may have friends that turn against us -1Pe 4:4
3. Others will try and silence us in the name of “political correctness”
4. We must never back down from living the Christian life
  - a. Not ashamed of the gospel -Ro 1:16
  - b. Never destroyed -2Co 4:8, 9

Conclusion:

1. Our goal as Christians is to be like Jesus.
2. The example of the “Silversmith”

There was a group of women in a Bible study on the book of Malachi. As they were studying chapter three, they came across verse three which says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver...". This verse puzzled the women and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God.

One of the women offered to find out about the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible study.

That week this woman called up a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest in silver beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot - then she thought again about the verse, that he sits as a refiner and purifier of silver. She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left even a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, how do you know when the silver is fully refined? He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy--when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.