

## MAN IS CREATED BY GOD

By A. J. Truesdell

As a race, man has never accepted the fact that he is made in the image and likeness of God. Rather does he believe that he is the image of his ancestors and reflects their characteristics. This concept has held man in the mists and miasma of human bondage. Before he can accept and benefit by his Divine sonship, man will be forced to look beyond and above mortal ties.

Because man has forgotten his original estate, he believes he is created in the image of other selves, other bodies of flesh. He outpictures that which has already been produce by the preceding generations. Because he believes he is a copy, an exact counterpart of what has gone before he, in turn, reproduces faithfully this idea in his offspring.

Not only has man lost sight of his pristine image and likeness of God, but he has created from materials such as wood, clay, stone, and metal, images to represent his Creator. He makes an idol to function as his God, then adores or fears the work of his own hands.

"We know an idol is nothing in the world," said Paul. However, under the influence of idols, man does peculiar and unexplainable things.

There is a spark in man which distinguishes him from every other created thing and gives him something by which he can rule his world. In his true nature and character, every man is able to partake of and emulate this spark known as his innate divinity. Man is not subject to beasts, fish, birds, or creeping things. Because God created him in his own image and likeness and gave him dominion over all, the fear of man is upon every creature.

Man has not been steadfast in his gaze toward the Source of himself. He has weaned his attention away from God and fixed it on appearances until he has become so entangled in some one false idea that it swallows him up. There is no escape until he acquaints himself with his original, unchanging, indestructible, undefeatable nature and character.

Attention to the reality of his being would reveal to his amazed consciousness the very presence of God. His mind would think the thoughts of God, and he would find himself doing or working as the Father worked through him.

Man can never be content until he is as much at home in this realization as he now is sure of his mortality. God is the reality, no matter what the appearance. Appearance is only the picture of man's twisted thought which results from his being "off-center."

Man identifies God. God is the real identity of man. This identity manifests its own nature, its inherent characteristics, its likeness. This likeness is all the Divine ideas that go to make up God. We are familiar with these ideas, for we exercise them daily: life, love, intelligence, power, joy, substance, and the host of others.

If man is like God, then he must be omnipotent. But we surely see his wisdom in refusing to invest omnipotence in any mortal. Do you suppose the world would be a pleasant place to live in if one of your friends, or a relative, or some government official were omnipotent? or even yourself? One remains Omnipotent, and the One is the reality of you or any man. But that reality is much more than the man that appears and who identifies himself with the flesh and the world. The omnipotence any man may exercise is within the bounds of his own consciousness, and never can over-reach to dominate another.

Jesus Christ is still the one man who demonstrated the presence of God, the power of God, and the wisdom of God in the world. But he declared constantly that he was nothing of himself, that God was all. He refused to "rule" other men, even in so small a matter as when a man came to him and asked him to get his brother to share righteously their common inheritance: "Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?"

There should be little difficulty in acknowledging the fact that man is created in the image and likeness of God. It demands nothing of anyone but surrender to the fact itself. The first step is to acknowledge that God is good and he is all. This leads man to the understanding that he springs from God as his created image and likeness.

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RETURN TO GOD

By R. A. Applegate, Jr.

A sort of mental and physical sickness pervades this earth and all men, in degree, feel and reflect the unhealthy conditions that contaminate the very atmospheres. In our highest seats of learning the professors have no constructive message to offer as a possible solution to man's predicament. We are told the content and "message" of all modern art, literature, and philosophy is that the universe is purposeless, meaningless, and senseless; just matter in motion obeying blind forces.

We learn that the present dis-illusionment, lack of morality, and false ethics of mankind is due to the destruction (by the scientific way of thinking), of religion; and, of the illusion that this is a spiritual universe governed by spiritual laws.

We discover that the conscious atheism, skepticism, materialism of the intellectuals has seeped down to the masses where it appears as a general felling of disillusionment, restlessness, and resignation. Neither philosophy nor religion offer any hope.

Such a gloomy view of the universe, as a whole, and our world, in general, is passed on to students with a measure of authority that can hardly be estimated. They attend our universities under the impression that they will be come enlightened in the things that matter; and, as a result of the training undergone they will, in turn, be able to serve mankind in the particular capacities in which they have specialized.

With the increase of learning, however, the cold, grey mist of disillusionment chills them to the marrow and they find themselves empty, lacking a warmth within that might have fired their world with new brilliance.

In the high seats of learning (or any place for that matter), such as we should not be permitted to say that the present day problems that hopelessly engulf man are due to his total ignorance of the teachings of Jesus Christ. If anyone should give ear, he would stoutly claim that he already had a religion and attended a church. With all his protestations, however, we find no real surrender to the power and the authority which Jesus Christ prescribed and exercised. Anyone who surrendered to him would be rewarded visibly, in ratio, with all the fruits of the Spirit. He would actually display before men the results of obedience to Jesus' teaching that, "he who humbleth himself as this little child" shall be "greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

The inability to surrender, or be meek and humble before God, is due to the belief that one is something of one's self, something apart from God. The world and everyone in it has fallen into this error. Everybody is striving desperately to affirm that he is something apart from God. But, God still remains all there is. No matter what anyone may say, do, or think, God still remains all there is. The strong desire to be something (or to be thought something) of one's self, keeps each of us from turning to God -- returning to the consciousness of oneness with him that we had before the world began.

If a sense of the reality of God has been lost, it can be regained only by willingness to make the effort to find him out. "Return unto me, and I will return unto you," saith the Lord. The first move is on the part of the individual.

Pride causes so many to become angry when they hear such precepts expressed, because obedience would strip them bare of all their pretensions. Those especially who have prestige because of wealth or position despise the Gospel; for, their prominence gives them the feeling they have themselves accomplished something, forgetting it is God that gives power to get wealth or position, or anything for that matter.

Only those who have been humbled, or who can humble themselves (not before men, but before God), can know the doctrine; for, only through willingness to become as naught can any man come to know Christ as all in all.

The troubles all of us experience are the result of turning away from the Supreme and imagining we have some personal power apart from the One. The way of return is by surrender of all that has resulted from this false imagination, and so let go of personality, and will, and foolishness. It is by becoming nothing in one's own sight that God in one might be all.

Only the child-like heart can know these things. No one is barred from having this heart, for it is already in all. The results of the practice of being child-like are shown by Jesus Christ. They are fulness of joy, peace, love, power, wisdom, and all the prerogatives of a son of God. Nothing actually is taken from him who willingly surrenders himself to God. That assurance runs like a golden thread throughout our Scripture. The promise is that a hundredfold increase will show forth.

No man would be so foolish as to attempt to surrender himself to God in order to get the increase. That would be folly indeed. But the fact remains,

and is reported even in this day, that surrender to the Most High is the surest reward in this present time.

One cannot coerce another into giving up to God; but one can tell another, and if he has ears to hear, and the heart to try, he will come into his own reward in the way most satisfactory for him. It will be far greater than his most fantastic expectations.

"It is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." "Come unto me, ... and I will give you rest."

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"You are not even the soul, which is the life of bodies, ...  
but You are the Life of souls, the Life of lives,  
Livingness itself,  
and You do not change,  
O Life of my soul."  
-- St. Augustine

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THE AWAKENING

By Raymond Weaver

Time was when the heart stirred but dimly to the rhythm of the tides of life. The beauty of the hills, and the glow of the sunset seem detached, and were as the portrayal of beauty removed from the touch of kinship. That was when I walked alone.

But when the light appeared within, all of nature spoke with the tongues of men and of angels. That was when Beauty with her all-embracing glow enclosed within her bosom the sunset gates of gold, and made alive the majesty of the mountain tops. It was then that all the universe was in accord, and the Spirit of Life spoke with the universal language of the soul. Night unto night, and day unto day joined with heaven to declare the glory and majesty of God.

Of such a welling up of flood and tide of love, far-flung beyond the aeonian shores -- beyond the ken of mortal mind -- the soul blossoms forth into ineffable joy, express in ecstasy. In all a moving seems reposed, too deep for sound and form.

Oh, song of eternity! Oh, hush of stillness that fills the heart with thunderous tones of lost and forgotten chords! Oh, music of the spheres that divides asunder the veil of mystery, revealing Life Everlasting! Oh, unity of the All in One!

Oh, be swift my soul to answer Him! Be jubilant my feet! Until beyond the trackless void we arrive at home at last, where neither night nor dawn awaits.

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SPIRITICITY March 1948

ANNIVERSARY LETTER

By Nell Truesdell

Dear Friends:

This March 1948 issue of SPIRITICITY ushers us into our eighth year of publication. We extend to our readers our hearty appreciation for their splendid support during the past seven years. We hope this 1948 series of papers will carry to each one a helpful and refreshing message of truth.

Since progress in understanding of things spiritual comes with time, we invite you to re-read the past numbers occasionally. We believe if you do, what was not entirely clear when first read will be revealed in a new light of your more fully developed understanding of the principles of truth.

The study of truth can be said to be the most interesting of all undertakings. The strongest reason offered is that the student himself changes (for the better) as he pursues truth. His horizons broaden, his perceptions heighten and deepen, his foresight lengthens, and his insight strengthens. The day-by-day attitude towards life in general is more tolerant. Relatives and friends discover in him a joy and gladness that makes for a fresher outlook, a more stimulating approach to the tasks of each day, a healthier body, and more productive circumstances. A largeness of heart inspires confidence and gives a sense of rest to all who draw near him. In short, the sincere truth student is easier to live with, and he offers a haven of peace and protection just through the simple act of being around. His influence is always good, and it is effective for good in the lives of those near and dear to him, as well as to him who is afar.

Principles rule our lives and outpicture in daily living. Often we are unaware of their out-working because our ears and eyes are closed to them. The natural man has exercised so long the senses of hearing and sight that he has become expert in using them to report to him what is going on in his world. He believes what he hears and sees. (Actually, he exercises his senses to report to him what he wants reported, and he thoroughly believes those reports are true.)

We are coming to know, however, that frequently information gained through the senses is not true at all; it is illusion and is not to be trusted to build a life upon. To do so is like putting foundations upon shifting sands.

As we become acquainted with God as Spirit, everywhere evenly present at one and the same moment, our inner ear and eye opens to hear and heed instructions, from above the realm of sense, which give us the proper bearings for successful conduct of affairs. Instead of fixing the sight on distant objectives in the outer we begin to lift our inner visional faculty toward the Most High God above thinking and above being. As we become familiar with this practice, the inner ear opens and a new ability to harken unto the unspoken and wordless truth from God begins to function.

Our inner vision directed God-ward, makes a path from us toward the Unknown and Unseen. If we are steadfast and persistent in looking toward him, we are able to hear (comprehend) what God has to tell us. We always listen for

the word of one we love. Under compulsion of the inner vision God-ward, though our objective be hidden from view, we recognize and accept the inspirations of the Almighty which fall into our consciousness over the line of our vision him-ward.

There is no new knowing to be gleaned from the world. All new knowledge comes from the Unknown. And it comes only at the instigation of persistent vision toward the Unknown. As we are steadfast in our gaze, we begin to hear, and if we are true in practice, we always hear the truth.

We can compare the development of our vision God-ward to the business of tuning in on some radio wave-length to get a specific program. On the old radios, we had to move a needle back and forth upon a dial until we found the exact spot at which the program came in without hissing and noises or static. Since we always wanted our reception clear and bell-like, we persisted until we struck the right spot and there our needle would rest. In the new radios, all we have to do is push a button at a given station, and the program comes in clear and faultless, without our having to adjust anything.

So it is with the uplook. At first, when we do not know too much about looking God-ward, our vision wavers and hesitates as we try to keep it uplifted. However, when we are practiced, we simply look upward any time of the day or night and lo, we are in instant conscious communication with our Maker.

While seeking truth is an individual choice, those of like mind can give much assistance to each other through association. Especially is this true for the beginner. The unexplored field is so vast, that the privilege of fellowship is great indeed. A helping hand in time of wavering cannot be overestimated.

The CHRIST TRUTH LEAGUE stands as an example of the efficacy of truth in the individual and group life of all connected with it. Mr. Truesdell and I welcome any opportunity to be of service to you. If at any time you feel you wish to discuss a problem, or have us cooperate in prayer with you for any reason whatever, please feel free to call or write us. Every contact is kept in strict confidence. Of this you may be assured, for we could not have maintained ministry for years if it were not so. Our rich blessings go out to you in heartfelt thanksgiving to God.

Lovingly yours,  
Nell Truesdell

Alphabet of  
DAILY MEDITATIONS  
For Every Week Day of the Month

March 1948

1. Have thy delight in the ALMIGHTY.
2. He BLESSETH the habitation of the just.
3. CAUSE me to know the way wherein I should walk.
4. Ye are My DISCIPLES, if ye have love one to another.
5. Those that seek Me EARLY shall find Me.
6. These words are true and FAITHFUL.

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8. GIVE account to Him.
9. He sent HIS Word and HEALED them.
10. Enter INTO His rest.
11. I desire to JUSTIFY thee.
12. I KNEW where I might find Him.
13. LOOK for LIGHT.

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15. Thou showest thyself MARVELOUS.
16. NEVERTHELESS, I am continually with thee.
17. His righteousness hath He OPENLY showed.
18. The Lord will bless His PEOPLE with PEACE.
19. Be QUIET; fear not.
20. His spirit was REFRESHED.

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22. With my whole heart have I SOUGHT thee.
23. TEACH me, and I will hold my TONGUE.
24. Lead me into the land of UPRIGHTNESS.
25. Glorify God in the day of VISITATION.
26. Thou hast magnified Thy WORD.
27. It YIELDED much increase.

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29. ZEAL hath provoked very many.
30. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
31. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

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Please join us in DAILY MEDITATION.  
The practice will prove beneficial in every way.