

Satan's Main Aim

By David Feddes

What would happen if Satan took over an entire city? The thought of Satan taking over might conjure images of a city in shambles, with people being cruel to each other and all sorts of horrible things happening. That might be how things would end up, but maybe that wouldn't be what would happen right away if Satan took over a city.

Donald Grey Barnhouse, a preacher in Philadelphia decades ago, once asked the question, "What would happen if Satan took over Philadelphia?" He thought that if Satan took over, all the bars would be closed, pornography would be outlawed, the streets would be safe and squeaky clean, children would be polite, churches would be full every Sunday—and Jesus Christ would not be preached as God and Savior. Dr. Barnhouse believed that Satan would be delighted to give us more of our own righteousness if he could rob us of Christ and His righteousness. Satan would give us more goodness if he could rob us of God.

Just think of Satan's strategies throughout history. The religion of Islam burst on the scene with a strict moral code and many cultural achievements, along with impressive military and economic strength in its early centuries. It was not a disaster for everybody where it came; it was a mighty and powerful civilization. But Islam denied that Jesus is God and Savior.

In Victorian England and in much of America that fell under the sway of Unitarianism in the 1800s, they were very strong on morality. They emphasized good, proper behavior and clean living but were very weak on Christ as God and Savior.

Consider nice, clean, all-American Salt Lake City, Utah, the world capital of Mormonism. It is one of the most beautiful, cleanest, and safest cities you can find, and one where Jesus Christ as God with us, the second person of the Holy Trinity, is denied.

So, maybe it's not such a terrible guess to say that if Satan took over a city or a civilization, it might seem quite nice and well-ordered. But Christ would not be proclaimed. Satan's main goal is to keep us from seeing Jesus. Satan's main goal is to keep us from seeing Christ as the perfect picture of God, the display of the Father's glory.

The history of Satan's work over the past 2000 years is, in large part, a history of groups and movements that detracted from or distracted from Jesus Christ. Satan might eventually let a city go completely to the dogs and go down the tubes. But if he had his way, he might start by making life pretty livable without Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul says of people who are perishing:

In their case, the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:4-6)

Paul had once been a man who strongly emphasized morality, proper behavior, and good living, and he had despised Jesus Christ. But he came to see the light of the gospel of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, and he knew Satan's main aim. Satan's main aim, as the god of this world, is to keep people from seeing the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

When we want to see who Jesus is, a great picture is found in Colossians 1:15-20.

Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:15-20)

Let's contrast this great passage with some of Satan's counterfeits and attempts to conceal, twist, distort, or hide what is true about our Lord Jesus Christ.

He is the image of the invisible God

- **Muslim:** Jesus is not God appearing among us but a prominent prophet.
- **Mormon:** Jesus came from Mary's union with the visible body of Elohim the Father.
- **Catholic and Eastern Orthodox:** Rather than be satisfied with Jesus as God's image, statues and icons are aids to worship.
- **Spirituality:** My inner feelings are the best indicator of who God is

The first thing this passage says is that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. If you want to know what God is like, you look at Jesus because Jesus is God. He is God made visible to us.

Muslims say that Jesus is not God appearing among us, but a prominent prophet. So, they say Jesus is very important and taught true things, but He is not God. He is not the way we see God appearing among us.

Mormons say that Jesus came from a union between Mary and the visible body of Elohim, the Father. God the Father has a body, and Jesus was the result of the Father's physical union with Mary. This denies that God is invisible, that God is a spirit, and that God the Father does not have a body. It also denies the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.

Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches do hold to the full deity of Jesus Christ, and they are absolutely right about that. All Christians agree on this. But Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox aren't satisfied with Jesus as God's image and resort to using statues and icons as aids to worshipping God, rather than simply accepting that God is invisible. The way to know God is through the word of truth about our Lord Jesus Christ.

In **contemporary spirituality**, people say, "Oh, I'm not a religious person, I'm a spiritual person. I don't like organized religion, but I like spirituality. My inner feelings are the best indicator of

who Jesus is or who God is. Jesus is not the image of the invisible God. My vibes are the image of the invisible God." So, there are a variety of ways of denying the fullness of Jesus as the image of the invisible God.

... the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created... all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things...

- **Arius:** Christ is the first creature; he is not God the Creator.
- **Jehovah's Witnesses:** The archangel Michael gave up his angel nature to become Jesus the man. Jesus was never God.
- **Pantheism:** The universe is God.
- **Naturalism:** Ultimate reality is impersonal evolution, not a personal Creator.

Jesus is also "the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created." The heretic **Arius**, in the early 300s, said that Jesus Christ is the first creature. He is not God, the Creator. Arius said, "There was a time when he was not." There was a time when the Son of God didn't exist. Arius believed that Jesus had existed before He became Jesus, in the sense that He was a great being before He was conceived in the womb of Mary. He was the first creature made before other creatures. That's what Arius believed was meant by "the firstborn of all creation."

But Scripture teaches that "firstborn of all creation" does not mean that He is actually just a part of creation. Jesus is the foremost of creatures in the sense that He is human as well as God. But in His divine nature, Jesus is the firstborn of God, over all creation. He is God's firstborn with the authority over the whole household and with all the rights over all of creation. That's what's meant, not that He is the first creature and that Jesus didn't exist before He became a man in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

Jehovah's Witnesses teach something similar to what Arius taught. Whereas Arius said that Christ is the first creature, Jehovah's Witnesses say that the Archangel Michael gave up his angel nature to become Jesus. Jesus was never God. This is a direct contradiction of the doctrine of the Trinity, which states, based on biblical revelation, that Jesus is the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, and is divine, not just an angel or even a mighty Archangel, but God Himself and the creator of all things. The Bible never says that Michael created all things or that all things were created through him or that Michael is before all things. It says that of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Pantheism takes a whole different approach. There is no creator or creation; creator and creation are the same thing. The universe is God. By saying that everything is divine, it effectively says that nothing is divine. That's the whole idea of pantheism, very popular in Eastern religions and among some who even label themselves Christian theologians, especially those who are in love with evolutionism.

Then there's **naturalism**, which says the ultimate reality is impersonal evolution, not a personal creator. Scripture says, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth," and that Christ is the one for whom all things were created. Before anything came along that's not personal or material, there was the personal Creator. Naturalism contradicts this completely, saying that the

ultimate reality is matter and energy. Personality, they claim, evolved out of random combinations of matter and energy, a flat rejection of what the Bible reveals. Naturalism is another lie from Satan, to detract from the glory of Christ and from the glory of God the Father.

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

- **Angel worship:** becoming “spiritual”
- **Tribal religions:** local spirits and ancestors
- **Catholic:** prayers to Mary and patron saints

"For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities." **Angel worship** goes against this. Thrones, rulers, dominions, and authorities are not to be worshiped. These were all created through Christ and for Him. But it happens again and again throughout history that people begin to worship angels, believing they become more spiritual if they are in contact with certain spirit guides. They don't realize that the kind of spirit guides who try to take over your personality or become a substitute for God are the fallen angels, the wicked spirits. They start to worship angels. Real godly angels don't want to be worshipped. The only kind of angels who will receive worship are the bad kind, the Satanic and demonic kind. Worshipping angels instead of the living God has been popular in various religions.

Another instance of spirit worship is found in **tribal religions** where they believe they have to honor local spirits and the spirits of their ancestors. They believe there is a great Creator God who made everything, but they believe that He is far away. They think that it's more urgent to keep local spirits happy and to get help from the spirit of this tree or that forest, the spirit of this rock or that region. They think it's important to venerate the spirits of ancestors, who can either harm or help them. Traditional tribal religions, though they believe in a creator, act as if the lesser spirits—dominions, rulers, authorities—are the ones you really have to get along with. The Christian religion teaches, "Go straight to the top. Pray to God and depend on the Creator of all beings, and take comfort in His supremacy over all those other beings He created."

Roman Catholics, like those traditional tribal religions, deal with intermediate spirits. Instead of just praying to God in the name of Jesus Christ, they encourage communication with the dead in much the same way those tribal religions do. They pray to Mary, and they pray to patron saints who have power in a particular region or a particular aspect of life. It's not enough to pray to God alone but to these spirit intermediaries. It's all part of the same syndrome of denying the sufficiency of Jesus Christ and looking to spirit intermediaries.

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- **Deism:** God got the universe going and then left it to run on its own.
- **Moral therapeutic deism:** God wants me to be nice and happy, but he is a non-factor in “the real world” and daily living.
- **Civil religion:** God-talk, public displays, and traditional values hold things together.

Jesus is before all things, and in Him, all things hold together. Again, Satan has come up with various ideas to undermine or deny this. **Deism** is the idea that God got the universe going and then left it to run on its own. He's not involved with it anymore; He just got it started. But Scripture says, "In him, all things hold together." At every moment Christ "upholds all things by the word of His power" (Hebrews 1:3). Deism says, "God is real, and he made the universe according to rational patterns, but now it's on its own. It's our job to figure out the rational patterns and live according to moral principles." God is not engaged with this world, and we don't need to engage with God directly.

A variation on this is **moral therapeutic deism**, a term sociologist Christian Smith has labeled the typical American religion. He summarizes it this way: God wants me to be nice—that's the moral part. God wants me to be happy—that's the therapeutic part. But God is a non-factor in the real world and daily living—that's the deism part. There is a God out there somewhere, and He generally wants me to be a nice person, and He certainly wouldn't want me to go through anything difficult. He wants me to be happy at all times. But He doesn't really matter, and I don't need to pursue an ongoing daily connection with Him. This is the way many people live. They think if you don't kick the dog, and if you pursue your own happiness, that's good enough. Let God worry about God. That's the way to live. Moral therapeutic deism does not recognize that in Christ, all things hold together, and without Christ your life falls apart.

Civil religion is the worship of the nation. You use a lot of God-talk in your political life, put Jesus and manger scenes in public displays, slap the Ten Commandments up in a few courthouses, and count on traditional values holding things together. Scripture says Christ is the one in whom all things hold together. But civil religion wants to hold a society together based on using "In God We Trust" on our money, making public displays of this and that but not actually having the word of the living God in our hearts. We want the Ten Commandments in our courthouses, but hardly any Americans can name all Ten Commandments. Even those who call themselves evangelicals can barely name five of the Ten. Yet they want the Ten Commandments in public life. This indicates a trust in civil religion as something that holds things together.

And he is the head of the body, the church.

- **Catholic:** In practice the pope is head.
- **Consumerist:** The customer is king. Church should aim to please me.
- **Individualist:** Who needs a church body? I can experience Jesus anywhere.
- **Doctrinalist:** We are ruled by truths and principles—who needs the living Christ?

He is the head of the body, the church. That's another great truth about Jesus Christ and another fact about Christ that Satan tries to undermine.

The **Roman Catholic** church may say that Christ is the head of the church, but in practice, the Pope is the Vicar of Christ. He is Christ's person on earth to head the whole church. So, in fact, Christ is not treated as the only true head of the church.

Many people aren't Catholics, and even many Catholics don't really revere the Pope that much. They are **consumerist**. They believe the customer is king. The church exists to please me. If it

doesn't do what I like, I'm going somewhere else because there will be a church out there somewhere that will scratch my itchy ears and satisfy my appetite. So, I'm going to shop around until I get a church that suits my fancy. Very low on the list of important things about a church is whether Jesus Christ is actually exalted there, whether Jesus Christ is honored as supreme, and whether the way of Christ and the formation of people into the character of Christ is the number one priority of that congregation. So don't think Catholics with their Pope are the only ones denying Jesus as the only head of the church. Many non-Catholics and even some Catholics are far more consumerist and just as surely denying that Jesus is the one and only head of the church. They seem to think the customer, not Christ, is king.

Then there's the **individualist**. Scripture says, "Christ is the head of the body." The individualist says, "What body? Who needs a church body? I can experience Jesus anywhere. I've got a personal 'me and Jesus' relationship. Who needs that church thingy?" That's another of Satan's denials of the supremacy and preeminence of Jesus Christ in revealing Himself and working in His body, the church.

Another strategy Satan uses to distract from Jesus as head of the church body is the **doctrinalist** approach. This can be a danger for me and for people like me. We are ruled by truths and principles. We want to get our doctrines straight. We want to get our moral principles nailed down. I teach doctrine; I teach ethics. I work hard to get doctrinal truths and moral principles right, and I should. But danger arises when we start thinking, "If only we can get everything written down and figured out properly, who really needs the living Lord Jesus Christ engaged in our lives in a day-to-day manner?" We've got our doctrine correct. We have our teachings about how to behave nailed down. Our i's are dotted, our t's are crossed. Who needs the actual involvement of the living Christ by His Holy Spirit in our lives in a daily conversational relationship of prayer, walking with Him, seeking His guidance, loving Him, and worshiping Him?

We need a living connection with our head. Unfortunately for the doctrinalist, it's bad doctrine to pretend that doctrine is everything. Doctrine matters a great deal. But part of true doctrine is saying, "We seek the living Christ to dwell in us, and we seek to live for Him. We are His body, and He is our head, our life, and our day-to-day director."

He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

- **Theological liberalism:** Jesus did not rise.
- **Easy believism:** I can be forgiven and go to heaven without Jesus taking over my life.
- **Consumerism:** What I want from a church is _____. (Jesus might make the list as one of many things the customer wants.)

Theological liberalism is one of Satan's favorite methods lately. Liberalism says Jesus did not rise: "In this age of enlightenment, when we are so scientific, we know that resurrections don't happen. What really matters is the spirit of Jesus' teaching and His thought." But if Jesus is dead, said the Apostle Paul, your faith is futile, you're still in your sins (1 Corinthians 15:17). Forget about Christianity if Jesus isn't raised from the dead. But Satan has been using theological

liberalism over the last couple of hundred years to say, "You can be a Christian and not believe that Jesus rose from the dead at all."

Easy believism says, "I can be forgiven and go to heaven without Jesus taking over my life. He doesn't have to be preeminent in everything. I can have Him and His forgiveness and salvation and still do my own thing." What a bunch of rot! But that's one of Satan's methods, to tell you that you can have Jesus as Savior but not as Lord, that you can have forgiveness of your sins without Jesus being preeminent in your life. Dream on! You may grow in your knowledge of Jesus' preeminence and in your application of it to various areas of life as you discover more and more. But if Christ is not your Lord, if you do not worship Him, and if He's not number one in your life, you are not a saved person. Easy believism is Satan's lie that even if Jesus isn't preeminent in your life, you're just fine.

Consumerism denies Jesus' preeminence: "What I want from a church is _____" and you fill in your own nice little consumerist blank. Jesus might even make your list as one of the many things that the customer wants. Maybe He's number 11 on the list. You might think Jesus should feel very fortunate that He made you list at all. But Scripture says Jesus is to be preeminent in everything, not that he belongs somewhere on a long list of consumer wishes.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell

- **Judaism, Arian, Muslim, Unitarian, Deist, Jehovah's Witness:** Jesus is not God's fullness united to human nature.
- **Consumerist:** Focusing on Jesus does not fulfill us; we want something more.

Jesus is divine. He has revealed in His words and works and in the truth of the Bible that He is the very fullness of God, the very image of God. When you're looking at Jesus, you're looking at the Father.

But **Judaism** rejected Jesus as Christ. Some Jewish people accepted Christ, and many of the earliest Christians were, of course, Jewish. All the apostles were Jewish, as was Jesus Himself. But Judaism as a religion rejected the deity of Jesus Christ and rejected Jesus as the fullness of God. The Jewish leaders crucified Jesus for blasphemy when he claimed to be one with God.

Arians, the heretics of the early 300s, denied that Jesus is fully God. **Muslims** deny that Jesus is God. **Unitarians** deny that Jesus is God and say that Jesus is just a great man who knew God well and explained great moral principles. **Deists** deny that Jesus is God. **Jehovah's Witnesses** deny that Jesus is the fullness of God. **Mormons** deny it. They all have one thing in common: whatever their differences, Jesus is not God's fullness united to human nature. That is their claim.

The **consumerist** may or may not affirm a sound doctrine of Jesus. But whatever their doctrine, the consumerist does not find fullness in Jesus. The consumerist says, "Focusing on Jesus isn't enough. That doesn't fulfill us. We want something more than Jesus when it comes to church life. So what if it's a Christ-centered, Bible-believing church? We have other things on our wish

list, other things we're looking for in a church." So, the consumerist denies by his life what he might profess in his doctrine of Jesus' deity.

and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- **Muslim:** Jesus did not die.
- **Legalist:** We can save ourselves.
- **Pluralist:** Many paths lead to God.
- **Universalist:** All people are saved, even if they do not count on the cross of Christ.

Satan's main aim is to deny the glory of God in Christ. Where is God's glory in Christ most revealed? Where is God's love in Christ most revealed? At the cross and resurrection of Jesus. So Satan continually denies or detracts from the cross and what it achieved.

Muslims say that Jesus did not die at all. Jesus was just a great prophet; He wasn't the Son of God. As a great prophet, Allah would not let a prophet so great be disgraced or killed. So, someone else was made to look like Him. Judas was made to look like Jesus, and Judas was the one who was nailed to the cross. Prophet Jesus was taken straight to heaven without ever dying. So, there is no atonement for sin in Islam because Jesus never died at all. Scripture says, "If righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing" (Galatians 2:21). Muslims teach that righteousness CAN be gained through law (Sharia), but they don't want to say that Jesus died for nothing, so they teach that Jesus didn't die at all. This is a fundamental denial of the cross. Islam is Satan's greatest counterfeit in history: a religion of a billion people that says Jesus is not God, and Jesus did not die.

Legalists claim that we can save ourselves. Many followers of Judaism and Islam are legalists, and some who call themselves Christians are too. They believe that by keeping God's law, by our own efforts, by being good boys and girls, we can save ourselves. That is a denial of the blood of the cross. If we could save ourselves, would God have sent His own beloved Son to hang on that cross, to bear such awful agony, to take God's wrath against sin? Would God have done all that if we could just do it on our own? If we could save ourselves by the works of the law, Christ died for nothing (Galatians 2:21). But He died, and He didn't die for nothing. He died because we needed it. He needed to die for us so that we could have peace with God through the blood of the cross.

The **pluralist** says that many paths lead to God, or even that all paths lead to God in the end. So, it doesn't really matter whether you believe in Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). But the pluralist says Jesus is a way, a truth, a life, and many come to the Father apart from Him. However, whatever the pluralist may say, Jesus still keeps saying, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." The Bible teaches that the cross of Christ is the only way, faith in His blood is the only way to be made right with God. Pluralists deny that. They say there are many other ways, and often, they think this blood and cross stuff is icky and primitive. So, they end up saying all paths lead to God... except the cross! That's just the old dragon Satan talking.

Most pluralists are also **universalists**. They say all people are saved, even if they don't count on the cross of Christ. This is a growing threat within the Christian church itself. Some of the most popular preachers, with thousands in their mega-churches, are saying, "Love wins," meaning that everybody gets into heaven in the end. Scripture says that many will be told by Jesus, "Depart from me into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41). Those people who are not in Christ, whose sin has not been atoned for by His cross and have not put their faith in Him, will be lost forever, despite what every pluralist and universalist says. I don't care how many degrees you have in theology, how many people you have in the pews of your church, how many millions your church's budget is, or how big your television or radio audience is. If you claim that people are saved without Jesus Christ, if you tell them they don't need faith in the blood of the cross, you are a liar, an enemy of the cross, and a tool of Satan. Okay, that wasn't a nice thing I just said. It just happens to be true.

Fending off attacks

Satan's main aim is to blind people to the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. If that is his main aim, how should we deal with Satan's tricks? How do we fend him off?

My friend Jerry Lorenz, our director of technology at Christian Leaders Institute, has to deal with various things in our computer network. One challenge is protecting our computers against hack attacks. Our servers have to fend off hundreds of hack attacks every day. Various hackers and programs are constantly trolling around the internet, trying to take over computer server space. The main defense is not to focus on every virus and every potential problem, but to keep our servers healthy, to have a strong firewall, and to have good programming that will constantly maintain our network and fend off every attack. Jerry does not have to know everything that ever goes on with those hackers. He just has to know how to defend a computer and keep it healthy.

Similarly, in our walk with the Lord Jesus Christ, it's helpful to know some of Satan's main strategies, but we don't need to know the name of every demon or stay up around the clock wondering what direction the next attack will come from. We don't necessarily have to memorize even all of Satan's methods that I just described. I mention these things because it's important to be alert to Satan's strategies.

But remember his main aim: to keep you from seeing the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. So the best way to deal with Satan and his hack attacks is to focus on the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Have a daily walk with Jesus Christ in prayer, conversation with Him, and listening to Him in the Scriptures. That will build a very strong firewall against the devil, who is always on the prowl, seeking whom he may devour. You can't keep track of him and all his demons all the time. But if you keep your life focused on Jesus Christ, your firewall will be very strong indeed, and you will be able to fend him off.

Satan's main aim, as we have seen, is to keep us from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. So, we need to keep focused on Jesus, His cross, and His resurrection. "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all

things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross" (Colossians 1:15-20).

Satan's got his strategy. "The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." Those of us who are Christians and those of us who are teachers of the gospel need to remember it's not about us. It's not our thing. It's not our church. It's not about us pleasing the customer. "For we do not proclaim ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:4-6).

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What is the best way to protect a computer server against hack attacks?

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or

authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Col 1:15-20)

Satan blinds, God shines

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:4-6)