

JESUS IS THE PERFECT REVELATION OF THE CHARACTER OF GOD

Jesus is the image of the invisible God.

Jesus said, "I and My Father are One." "Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father."

Jesus corrects our picture of the character of God. Jesus exposes whether our assumptions about the Father are true. Jesus shows us what the Father has always been. God the Father so loved the world that He sent His Son and gave His Son so that we may be restored to God's design for life if we will believe Jesus. If we want to be rescued from sin and live in God's strength instead of our own, we simply believe and trust Him for it.

Jesus shows respect toward human freedom. Jesus invites us to come to Him. Jesus never coerced with threats or forced people to come. Matthew 11:28 Jesus allowed the rich young ruler to walk away. Matthew 19:22 God allowed Adam to sin and then promised him a restorer. God allowed Israel to be taken into bondage, and then restored Israel when they turned back to Him.

Jesus forgave sin before He gave healing. Mark 2:5 God the Father has already forgiven the sin of unbelievers and continues to forgive the sin of believers. Salvation is not forgiveness. Salvation is restoration to new life in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:19 God forgives before He heals. God forgives before He saves. God freely forgives without any payment.

Sin is living in one's own strength and wisdom. Salvation brings the believer to live in God's strength and God's wisdom. Breaking the 10 commandments is the consequence of sin. The final consequence of sin is death. Breaking God's law, His design for life, results in harm to life and eventual death. Romans 6:23

Jesus did not strike back at His enemies. God does not punish. Sin is the killer of life. God heals and restores as we permit Him to do so. If we don't permit His healing, God respects our freedom and our choice and sin destroys our life. God's Law exists to protect life. When Israel departed from the Truth, God allowed sin to reap its consequence and then God used their suffering to get their attention. Then God invited Israel back to Himself. God invites all sinners to come to Him for restoration. God also invites believers to repent and return to fellowship with Him when they go astray. 1 John 1:9

Jesus said that judgment is truth revealed as shown by sins consequences in life. The Holy Spirit reveals the truth about sin, the need for personal righteousness, and the fact that the Light of Jesus and the Fire of God exposes, refines, and consumes. The consuming of the darkness of sin is the final judgment. So the judgment of God is not punishment but rather truth revealed. Judgment first reveals what is out of alignment with God's design for life, and then the refiner's fire consumes.

Romans 1:28-32 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 John 3:19 Revelation 20:15