



## Created in the Image of God

Have you considered the \_\_\_\_\_ God created you in His image? Being created in God's image is no small \_\_\_\_\_! Let's take some time today to consider it. We're here to \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures for God's will. In SEARCH of the Lord's Way \_\_\_\_\_ broadcasting 41 years ago on September 1, 1980. Mack Lyon was its founder and speaker for \_\_\_\_\_ years. He passed away in 2015 at the age of 93. We thank God for his \_\_\_\_\_ for God and people and for his hunger to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

When God saw all that He had made, He said it was very \_\_\_\_\_. God created man in His likeness and knew that the more each person \_\_\_\_\_ to be like God the better for all humanity. Like God, man could reason, could choose, and could communicate. God gave each person a conscience that gave them a self-awareness, and led them to evaluate their \_\_\_\_\_ behavior. They knew when they had done something \_\_\_\_\_ and they knew when they did something that was \_\_\_\_\_.

God expects those who turn to Him as Christians to live in a \_\_\_\_\_ that reflects the image of God. Ephesians 4:21-24 says, "if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him ( that is, in Jesus), just as \_\_\_\_\_ is in Jesus, in reference to your former manner of life, that you lay aside the \_\_\_\_\_ self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the \_\_\_\_\_ self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth." God gave us the Bible so that we may know what it means to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord and live righteous lives. While God created each of us with the \_\_\_\_\_ to be like Him, we must be willing to follow His teaching.

**Our reading today comes from the first book of the Bible, Genesis 1:26-31,** and discusses the creation of mankind.

Let's pray together. "Father, we're thankful that You have created us in Your image, we're thankful Father for all the blessings that You've given to us through all of these years, and Father we pray that You will continue to be with us, and help us to be devoted to You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Hebrews 12:9 says that God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of spirits. The spirit you have and I have came from God. While other creatures on earth are \_\_\_\_\_, only man was given a spirit and created in the likeness of God. What does that mean? How do humans \_\_\_\_\_ from the other creatures God made? William Grasham in his commentary on Genesis published by Truth for Today presents several differences between mankind and animals. First, only man can think above himself and \_\_\_\_\_ about his thoughts. He can ask the most important \_\_\_\_\_, "Who am I?", "Where did I come from?", "Why am I here?", or "What will happen to me after I die?" Only man considers his \_\_\_\_\_ or tries to discover his origin or heritage. Only man wants to know about his \_\_\_\_\_ for existing or evaluates his place in life. Animals never struggle over such concepts; they just \_\_\_\_\_.

Second, only man is able to \_\_\_\_\_ from experience, to accumulate knowledge from others, and to share that knowledge and wisdom with those who follow. Man is the only creature to whom \_\_\_\_\_ and the past are important. He accumulates knowledge from the past and cares enough to share it, so that the following generations \_\_\_\_\_ more knowledgeable than his own. As William Grasham noted,

**Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.**

May be reproduced in its entirety for purposes of classroom material or personal study.

PO Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 1-800-321-8633

This study sheet is prepared by Jerry Campbell – [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org)

“Man can preserve knowledge in both oral and written forms, so that his children and grandchildren don’t have to discover everything anew.”

Third, only man has dominion or \_\_\_\_\_ over the earth and all the animal kingdom. God gave mankind this rule, when He created them; but this rule is a sacred trust and stewardship. While man’s physical body requires food, water, and air as the animals do, man is the \_\_\_\_\_ creature who can hear and meditate the words that God revealed. Certain animals have physical abilities that far exceed humans, but God made man \_\_\_\_\_ as well as physical.

Fourth, only man shows restlessness with the \_\_\_\_\_ things of life. Perhaps this is true because God “has also set eternity in their \_\_\_\_\_” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). While man longs for more than he has, animals are \_\_\_\_\_ with the necessities of life. While man fails to be satisfied with who he is, what he looks like, what he knows, what he experiences, or what he accomplishes, animals don’t \_\_\_\_\_ to see, hear, or experience something new all the time.

Fifth, only man is a moral being with a \_\_\_\_\_ of oughtness. His conscience makes it mandatory for him to \_\_\_\_\_ with right and wrong. His conscience bears \_\_\_\_\_ to his behavior and his thoughts alternately accusing or defending him (Romans 2:14-16). He longs to have a \_\_\_\_\_ conscience (1 Peter 3:21). While animals act on instinct doing what comes \_\_\_\_\_, mankind constantly evaluates his thoughts and actions morally and ethically. Only man is a \_\_\_\_\_ moral agent with the ability to choose how he will live.

Romans 6:16 says that we can present ourselves as \_\_\_\_\_ for obedience to sin that results in death or to obedience to God, which results in righteousness. Verses 17-18 remind us that we can \_\_\_\_\_ course: “But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of \_\_\_\_\_ to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” We thank God that we don’t have to be trapped by enslavement to sin, that we can become the people God intended!

Sixth, only man has an aesthetic nature that allows him to \_\_\_\_\_ art, music, and poetry. Animals care nothing for aesthetic matters because such things don’t \_\_\_\_\_ their well-being. Though birds can instinctively weave intricate nests from things they find on the ground, and spiders can instinctively produce and weave intricate webs from the silk strands coming from the tiny organs called spinnerets in their abdomens, only man shows the ability to \_\_\_\_\_ many different intricate and beautiful things.

Seventh, only man has a concept of a \_\_\_\_\_ life beyond the grave. Only man thinks to \_\_\_\_\_ for the life beyond. He may fear death and mourn the departed, but he has \_\_\_\_\_ for life beyond. He sees this life as precious but realizes it’s not the \_\_\_\_\_. He also realizes there will be a \_\_\_\_\_ that affects his eternity. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must \_\_\_\_\_ appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his \_\_\_\_\_ in the body, according to what he’s done, whether good or bad.” Only man works to lay up \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy.

Yes, God created mankind in His image; and man is unique. Grasham observed, “The blessing of this uniqueness is attached to a \_\_\_\_\_ responsibility to serve and to praise the Creator.” We exist to give \_\_\_\_\_ to God, our Creator. The twenty-four elders of Revelation 4:10-11 \_\_\_\_\_ God who lives forever and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed and were created.” God wanted the \_\_\_\_\_ for mankind, but mankind lost sight of God.

Though made in God's image, people \_\_\_\_\_ to follow their selfish desires and ignored the warning of the Lord God. They chose evil and \_\_\_\_\_ themselves much suffering and heartache. First, it was Adam and Eve sinning by \_\_\_\_\_ from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God punished Adam and Eve by expelling them from the Garden of Eden. Adam had to \_\_\_\_\_ for his food by the sweat of his brow. God caused Eve to \_\_\_\_\_ at childbirth and yet to desire their husbands who will "rule over you." God also cursed the \_\_\_\_\_ because of Adam's sin; "both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you" (Genesis 3:17-18).

Genesis 4 tells how Cain offered up a \_\_\_\_\_ that God didn't accept, but He accepted Abel's offering. This resulted in Cain becoming \_\_\_\_\_ at his brother and murdering him. First John 3:12 describes Cain as one "who was of the \_\_\_\_\_ one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his \_\_\_\_\_ were evil, and his brother's were righteous." Evil grew in Cain's \_\_\_\_\_ to the extent that he would murder his innocent brother.

Years later the Lord witnessed how evil had multiplied throughout humanity. Genesis 6:5-7 says: "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was \_\_\_\_\_ on the earth, and that every intent of the thought of his heart was only evil continually. The LORD was \_\_\_\_\_ that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The LORD said, 'I will \_\_\_\_\_ man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.'" God decided to destroy the world, but Noah found \_\_\_\_\_ in God's sight. No matter how bad things got, God was still wanting to offer \_\_\_\_\_ that people could live right before God. Noah built an ark just as the Lord \_\_\_\_\_, and God brought eight people safely through the water. First Peter 3:21 says, "Corresponding to that, baptism now \_\_\_\_\_ you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Just as the ark gave hope to Noah, the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ that saves through baptism can give us a good conscience.

Scripture can \_\_\_\_\_ us about the glory and power of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Scripture can open our \_\_\_\_\_ so that we can see God's holiness; it also helps us to see ourselves as God sees us. Isaiah 6 tells of Isaiah's vision of God. The Lord was sitting on a \_\_\_\_\_, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim, that is heavenly beings stood above him, and one called out, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of Hosts, The whole earth is full of His \_\_\_\_\_." When Isaiah saw the majesty and the holiness of the Lord, he said in verse five, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I'm a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have \_\_\_\_\_ the King, the LORD of hosts."

We sometimes compare ourselves with \_\_\_\_\_ people, because we can always find someone who is morally lower than we think we are; but if we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves with our holy God, we know that we can never measure up. We can begin to see ourselves as we truly are: sinners in \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation. Like the prophet Isaiah, we realize that without the Lord Jesus, we too are \_\_\_\_\_. Ephesians 2:1-3 describes us when we're separated from Christ, "And you were \_\_\_\_\_ in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the \_\_\_\_\_ of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest."

If the Scripture had stopped there, we'd all have to face being children of \_\_\_\_\_. Ephesians 2:12 reminds the Gentiles, who had come out of paganism into Christianity, what their way of life was like before coming to Christ: "remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the

commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no \_\_\_\_\_ and without God in the world.” I can think of nothing worse. The pandemic of 2020 separated us from one another, which was heartbreaking; but to be separated from God and without hope is the \_\_\_\_\_ condition of all.

I’m thankful for verse 13: “But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought \_\_\_\_\_ by the blood of Christ.” You might be living in a way that’s far off from God, filled with guilt and regret; but you can draw near to God because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ. You can \_\_\_\_\_ and become a new creature. Second Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a \_\_\_\_\_ creature; the \_\_\_\_\_ things passed away; behold, new things have \_\_\_\_\_.” People who are without God and without hope can come to Christ and find hope and live for the God who created them. You can break from the old ways and be \_\_\_\_\_ again.

Because of the blood of Jesus, you can be \_\_\_\_\_ and become a child of God. Ephesians 2:19-22 describes what became of the converted Gentiles who came to Christ: “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you’re fellow \_\_\_\_\_ with the saints, and are of God’s household (His family), having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.” In Christ, you’re no longer a \_\_\_\_\_ to God but part of His family. You’re a fellow citizen with the saints. Every person in God’s family, the \_\_\_\_\_, is now a saint. A saint is a person whom God considers holy. We are washed, sanctified, and justified by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. You can leave hopelessness for hope and wrath for salvation. You were created in His image; now become God’s child.

Let’s pray together. “Heavenly Father help us to be obedient to Your will, to turn from the things of this sinful world and to live in righteousness, knowing that we were created in Christ to be Your child. Help us heavenly Father to love You and to serve You always. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

God created you in His image because He wanted you to be \_\_\_\_\_ Him and to live in love and righteousness. The Lord Jesus wants you to \_\_\_\_\_ forever a place in the Paradise that He is preparing for you in heaven. God wants us all to put away the evil of the past and to live \_\_\_\_\_ lives devoted to godly ways. Colossians 3:8-10 says, “But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.”

Jesus Christ can help us \_\_\_\_\_ the person God intended us to be. We can leave the old sinful life and become people who \_\_\_\_\_ the image of God, who can choose the righteous path and \_\_\_\_\_ the way of sin. We don’t have to be trapped in a lifestyle of shame and guilt. We have an \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ.

Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Decide today that you will no longer practice the sins that make you guilty and ashamed. Repent. Confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God and make Him your Lord. Be baptized into Christ Jesus, uniting with Him in His death, burial, and resurrection. When you’re immersed (that is, baptized in water), God will wash away your sins and give you newness of life (Acts 22:16; and Romans 6:3-7). You can be a new creature, you can be a child of God.

We do ask that you focus your heart on God by worshiping at church. Everybody needs a church family. And there’s probably a church of Christ near you. If you’re looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we’ll gladly help you find one.