

**Man's Image** And Man Said, 'Let Us  
Make God In Our Image,  
According To Our Likeness'

by Doug Dingley

(Genocide 1:26). Yes I know... the above title may look somewhat like a meaningless misprint at first glance, but sadly, I can assure you that it's not. Ever since the dawn of time, it seems as if earthly man, dissatisfied with the dictates and desires of the one, eternal, almighty God and Creator of the entire universe, has sought to dethrone, diminish, and "dumb-down" the God of heaven, by characterizing, compromising, and/or cramming Him into some more easily understood, man-made, more man-pleasing – or at least more familiar to man – earthly creature or caricature.

From the very earliest example of worship which God required, we see that man was not satisfied to simply submit, obey, and give God what He desired, but sought to "create God in his own image," by giving God what man desired instead, while at the same time, apparently thinking that would be acceptable. Man was, of course totally wrong (Genesis

4:3-5; Hebrews 11:4), repeatedly! And yet, he still remained totally committed and undeterred in his prideful, disobedient, and irreverent pursuit of error.

As time went by, man continually sought to restructure, recreate, and recast God and His divine desires, into some of a more self-satisfying and man-made mold. And so, instead of simply submitting to the straightforward instructions which the God of heaven had so carefully and lovingly laid down for His creation to follow, man continually sought thereafter to offer to

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God in worship, all sorts of substitutions which man had arbitrarily decided – and outrageously somehow justified in his own deluded mind – would be okay. From

the Israelites' golden calf (Exodus 32), to Nadab and Abihu's burning desire for their unauthorized addition to worship (Leviticus 10); to King Jeroboam's 'more convenient,' counterfeit worship practices somewhat "like" God had ordained, but which he had still "devised in his own heart" (1 Kings 12:25ff); to the man-made doctrines and commandments of men which Jesus said rendered "vain" the worship of any and all of those who would practice such substitutions (Matthew 15; Mark 7), man has never stopped seeking to diminish, dethrone, and re-create the God of heaven, into man's own "much-less" mold, in man's own mind; into something that the God of heaven never has been or ever will be: subject and in submission to human desires, dictates, and deviant derivations (2 Peter 2 and 3)!

But man wasn't content to stop at simply recreating worship into something more man-designed and desired, but actually also foolishly sought to go so far as to create and then to serve and sacrifice to all of his humanly-devised "gods" themselves – which were nothing more than the perverted manifestations of men, women, beasts, and earthly things, then perhaps combined with some other-worldly and/or fantastic delusions from the mind of men. But all of these things God Himself had strictly forbidden since He led His people out of bondage (Deuteronomy 5, 13; Jeremiah 10; Acts 17 + 18; Romans 1; and etc.).

I was recently reminded of this as my wife and I returned home one evening and found our daughter doing her homework on the living room floor, with one of the latest, computer-generated "superhero" movies going on T.V. As I later considered the characters, it occurred to me just how similar these so-called "superheroes" all were, to the ancient idea of the many false gods man has made in his own image over the millennia! Just as those false gods were nothing more than merely the human, animal, imagination combinations of men's minds, only supposedly possessing the grossly amplified, over exaggerated or magnified muscles, powers, or uniquely-

modified attributes of the creatures they resembled, so too, are all of these so-called but imaginary "superheroes" of today. Fantasy manifestations of men and women combined with the exaggerated attributes of everything from ants, to spiders, to bats, to panthers, to wolverines and everything in between; as well as from the most basic of hulking muscle-bound monsters to the most technologically-advanced and flexibly iron enhanced and clad warriors and more, all clashing in world-crushing combat – very much as the false and imaginary "gods" of old were believed to do.

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I am just incredibly grateful to know (1 John 5:11-13), that unlike either the false, man-made gods of old, or the imaginary man-made "superheroes" of today's movies, my hero – Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God Himself – is very alive and real, and not some imaginary, techno-imagery which was created and lives on only in the minds and on the screens of mere mortal and misguided men. Neither does my Hero have to "suit up" to be powerful, but actually had to strip Himself of some of His power and put on human flesh just like me, in order to come and save me (John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-8). And my Hero is more powerful than all of man's imaginary so-called "superheroes" put together could ever be, even if they did live – which they don't – because His power extends beyond the grave. And one day He's coming back to take me home to live with Him forever. Now, how's that for power?

# Correspondence/Encouragement

## Inmate Correspondence:

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### **WVBS Online School**

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## Mission Works

### **Westhill Works**

Benevolence Program

### **Local Works**

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org

House to House, Heart to Heart

In Search of the Lord's Way

Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies

The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv

WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

### **Prison Works**

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

### **Foreign Works**

Four Seas Bible College, Singapore - Peter & Pooi Fun Chin

New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

## Leadership

### **Elders**

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Sam Dilbeck - 903.229.8415 (Pulpit)

Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)

Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

# Prayer List

**Sandra McCullough's** sister's grandson, Shane Ford, was seriously injured in a severe motorcycle accident last Sunday evening in Odessa, TX.

**David Baumgartner's** mother, Judy, will have surgery on Tuesday morning to remove cancer.

**Cooper Webster** has viral meningitis and walking pneumonia, but he is at home.

**Velma McDougald** had cataract surgery on Thursday, and seems to be doing fine.

**Bud Moore** went to Baylor in Dallas with respiratory problems.

**Kent Rathbun** has returned home from the hospital after his accident.

**Carolyn Bennett** lost her brother, Bob Cypert, last Thursday. His funeral was held Monday in Lubbock.

**Bobbie Robert's** niece, LeAnn, has completed her treatments, and will have scans performed later to determine if they were successful.

**Continue to Remember:** Julie Dilbeck, Meagan Gould, Wanda Horner, Beverly Heim, Eugenia Sosa, Patty Williams, Garnette Russell, Helen Strange, and Sabrina Zamzow

**Service Men:** Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart

# Announcements

**Jr. High and High School** will each have a **devo** TODAY, immediately following the morning service. High School meets at Paul and Dianne Stewart's and Jr. High meets at the Ivy's. Lunch for them will be served there.

**Lads 2 Leaders** has practice TODAY at 4:30pm for Oral Speech and Bible Reading.

Plan to spend **Thanksgiving Day** with your Westhill family (Nov 24 at noon in the Outreach Center). Turkey, ham, dressing and gravy will be provided, but sides and desserts are welcomed. Come alone, or bring your entire family! **Don't forget to sign up!!!**

**Youth Group** please mark your calendars for a **Christmas Party** Dec. 18th at the Roughton's.

**Young at Heart Seniors Group** meets every Tuesday morning at 10:30am for Bible Study. Everyone is welcome!

## Birthdays This Week

- November 21 - Tanner Bearden, Glyn Phillips & Kathi Pruitt
- November 22 - Micah Haden & Irene Ross
- November 23 - Kerri Barham
- November 24 - Connie Benishek
- November 25 - Wanda Brown

**Next Week's Adult Class**  
"The Life of the Apostle Paul"

## Records for November 13, 2016

Bible Class .....	175
AM Worship.....	265
PM Worship.....	120
Wednesday .....	139
Contribution .....	\$8,013.35

## Privileged to Serve

<b>Song Leader</b>	Cory Myers
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Tim Cooke
<b>Communion Leader</b>	Greg Olsen
<b>Communion Servers</b>	
Scott Barham	James Olsen
Lynn Webster	Robby Thomas
Mike Wylie	Kyle Slaughter
Greg Olsen	Buck Murphy
David Dilbeck	Wade Hall
Tanner Bearden	Thomas Saunders
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Green
<b>Nursery</b>	Korri Owens & Sloane Slaughter
<b>PM Song Leader</b>	Justin Mahoney
<b>PM Opening Prayer</b>	Tyler Baumgartner
<b>PM Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Steinkraus
<b>Wed. Song Leader</b>	Prayer Service
<b>Wed. Devotional</b>	Prayer Service
<b>November Contact Elder</b>	Paul Slaughter