

# marketplace *crosstalk*

May 1, 2018

Dear Friends:

Maximus the Confessor, a little known Orthodox monk and theologian who lived between 580 and 662 AD, once observed ... *“Whoever has seen God and has understood what he saw, **has seen nothing.**”*

Indeed! I think it can be safely said that the God we worship is too much for us even to conceive, or know, and especially to understand. And if it were not for Jesus, who took on human “flesh”, we would have absolutely no way to ever delight in a God so awesome. As Mark Jones states in the Preface of his new book **God Is**: *“Take away Christ, the God-man, and we are reprehensible to God and he to us. But in Christ, God is well pleased with us and we with him.”*

By the way ... why would Mark Jones make the statement that apart from Christ, we would be *“reprehensible to God and he to us”*? I thought God was our “loving” heavenly “Father”. And didn’t He create us? As some have said ... *“God don’t create no junk”*.

Well ... yes ... God did *“form us in our mother’s womb”*, and yes ... *“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son”* for our salvation. But how does this “creation” return the favor?

The fact is ... God makes most people uncomfortable. Even “religious” people sometimes view God to be overly demanding ... rigid ... and sometimes distant. As much as we appreciate the wonderful attribute of God’s love, we struggle when we see (or experience) tragedy or loss. We ask “Why?” ... “Where’s God, when we need Him?”

The fact is ... even if it were actually possible to “see” God, and stand in His presence, especially in our present “condition”, we would be so overwhelmed with His glory and splendor that it would be more than we could endure. And that’s to say nothing of standing in the presence of absolute holiness and purity. It would be like coming up out of a cesspool ... filthy ... vile smelling ... covered with excrement, and being ushered into the presence of a person of great importance, and into a room of splendor and opulence. And that doesn’t even come close to the reality of what it would mean to enter into the presence of God.

But thanks be to our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lifts us out of our “cesspool”, cleanses us from our filth, clothes us with his righteousness, and ushers us into his glorious kingdom as “adopted” children of his heavenly Father.

If we can “see” that, that’s enough for now. The rest will follow.

Yours for reaching the marketplace.

*Carl*