



**November 25, 2007**

Preaching: Rev. Eunbae Doh

Corinthians 1:15-20

## “The Invisible God”

We worship an invisible God. God is not absent from worship and the congregation is not being entertained in some sort of community talent show. But it is hard sometimes to remember that He is present because God is invisible.

And also it is so hard to say something about God for his invisibility. Let's ask Children who God is. Sometimes we get many great insights from our children. This is a book which someone lost at our church and waiting for the owner. If there is the owner of this book among us, stop by my office. If no one comes up, I will consider this is a gift from God. Dead line is today.

The name of this book is “Ask the Kids”. Many religious questions were asked and kids have answered candidly.

The first question is that, “How old is God?”

Mackie, 8 years old, answered, “God is super old, older than anybody alive.” Charles, age 6, answered, “God and my grandfather are about the same age.”

The second question is, “What does God look like?”

Lawrence, age 10, said, “God is a spirit and doesn't have a body. You just feel God because you can't see him like you do people”

Leroi, age 8, answered, “God looks like Mr. Windsor, what lives down the street. He looks just like God would look to me. But Mr. Windsor sure is not God. God wouldn't run kids off his grass.

Let's think about the answer of one of them. Lawrence, 10 years old boy, said, "God is a spirit and doesn't have a body. You just feel God because you can't see him like you do people"

Yes, he was correct. We can not see God, because God doesn't have a body, an invisible God. Believing in an invisible God is a great adventure and requires huge belief. It was a big issue for the people of Israel. Their God was invisible. They were not allowed to see God. If someone would see God, she or he would die a death penalty.

As we read the Bible passage, Colossian 1:15, we reaffirm the same truth, God was invisible. But now, God is visible. Jesus is the image of God. The following passage is a sort of chant or exaltation of the supremacy of Christ. Christ is the first born over all creation. By him, for him all things in heaven and earth were created.

But think about it. When you hear this passage, does it touch your heart? When you hear this kind of exaltation, God is great, God is King, his majesty, dignity, and sovereignty. Does it give you a great comfort in your fragile, vulnerable life situation? Well, some of you would say, "Yes". Some of you would say, "So what?"

*"SO WHAT?"*

For example, if I have an image of an apple and say how this apple is great, how sweet, delicious, one of kind, greatest fruit in the world, you may say, "So what?" because the apple is not real. No one can eat. As we hear something about God, his greatness and dignity, it is true that we have some kind of feeling, sense of emptiness and meaningless.

Now, here is good news, God has made decision to be visible to us.

***And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,\* full of grace and truth. John 1:14***

That's right, this is GOSPEL! Finally, God has some connection with us. Christ is the face or the image of the invisible God. This is the Gospel. Jesus became an in the flesh, visible God. God became human. This is the gospel and great news for all people in this world.

There is a story told of an old farmer who lived by himself in a cabin. Next to his cabin was a barn. One very cold, wintery night, birds began to crash into the

windows of his warm cabin trying to escape the deadly cold. So the old man went outside and opened the barn door. It was warm inside the barn. He waved his arms and shouted at the birds to go into the barn, into safety. But they did not understand him.

It was then that the old man wished that he could become one of them. If he could become a bird, then he could lead the other birds into the barn, to avoid death. And at that moment the old farmer understood why Jesus had come. Though the old man could not become a bird, God could become a man. So he did.

***"For God so loved the world that he sent his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).***

This message, God became flesh in Christ, a visible human, challenges us to reflect on our Christian life. Recently, I had some opportunity to reflect on my ministry here at Baker Church. I have had some feelings that I need to change something here. I realized that one of my problems was my visibility. In other words, I have been an invisible pastor. I have spent so many hours in my office. I have not had enough opportunity to meet people. When I prepared this sermon, this message that God became flesh, not invisible but visible God, it struck me. Wow, How could I be an invisible pastor, God became flesh so that people can see him, talk to him, eat with him.

I believe that this message also challenges you. God became flesh. God came to this world as a human like you and me. We need to be visible to God. We need to be visible to our neighbor.

What is the meaning of the Advent? It means Jesus is coming. He has come to us and he will come again. God became flesh to come to you. God is not the invisible one anymore. Let's come to the Lord. Show your face. Let him hear your voice. Amen.