



October 16, 2020

## **What You Don't See Is More Important than What You Do See**

*Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. - **Romans 1:20 (NRSV)***

The single most important thing to remember about God is his total unlikeness in his being from anything that we can see. The great contrast that runs through the entire Bible is the difference between the visible and the invisible. In the passage above we see the invisible made visible by the things that are made. In the nature of Yahweh—a being that cannot not be—is revealed through the things that are made, because everything that is made is something that could very easily not be. But we humans are beings with an important difference from other things in that we have two sides, for there is a part of us that also cannot not be. You are never going to cease to exist. God, in creation, has imparted an aspect of himself into you. Being made in God's image means, among other things, that you also are an eternal being and you can create. But, unlike God, you are not self-subsistent; you are dependent upon God for your being.

Your own experience verifies the truth of Romans 1:20. While you know that you are visible to others, you also know that part of you is invisible. It is in your thoughts and feelings (your mind) and, above all, in your ability to choose (your will). You can direct your actions, make plans, and carry them out—this is a function of the invisible part of you. You know, by experience, that your will is the source of the visible things that come to be as a result of your choices.

Even reading these words is a clear example of this. Earlier in the day, maybe only a couple of minutes ago, the invisible part of you—your will—decided to read this devotional. That decision led to the visible actions of opening it, and the further actions of reading, and maybe even taking some notes—all visible things. I doubt this happened because you were forcibly made to read this devotional. No, you are reading now because the invisible side of you decided to do so, directed your body to do the necessary things, and now here you are, reading. The important point here is that you have in yourself the Romans 1:20 experience of the invisible originating the visible.

By making you in his image, God has given you, in your will, the power of originative action, the power to create and to bring things into existence. You, then, are the best clue to the nature of God, understanding that while your powers and being are limited and dependent, God's are not. Everything that exists outside of God exists because of God.

**Practice:** *Take a moment, look around at the things that are visible, observe two things they share in common. First, they came into existence and, sooner or later, will pass out of existence. Second, each of them was created from an invisible source.*