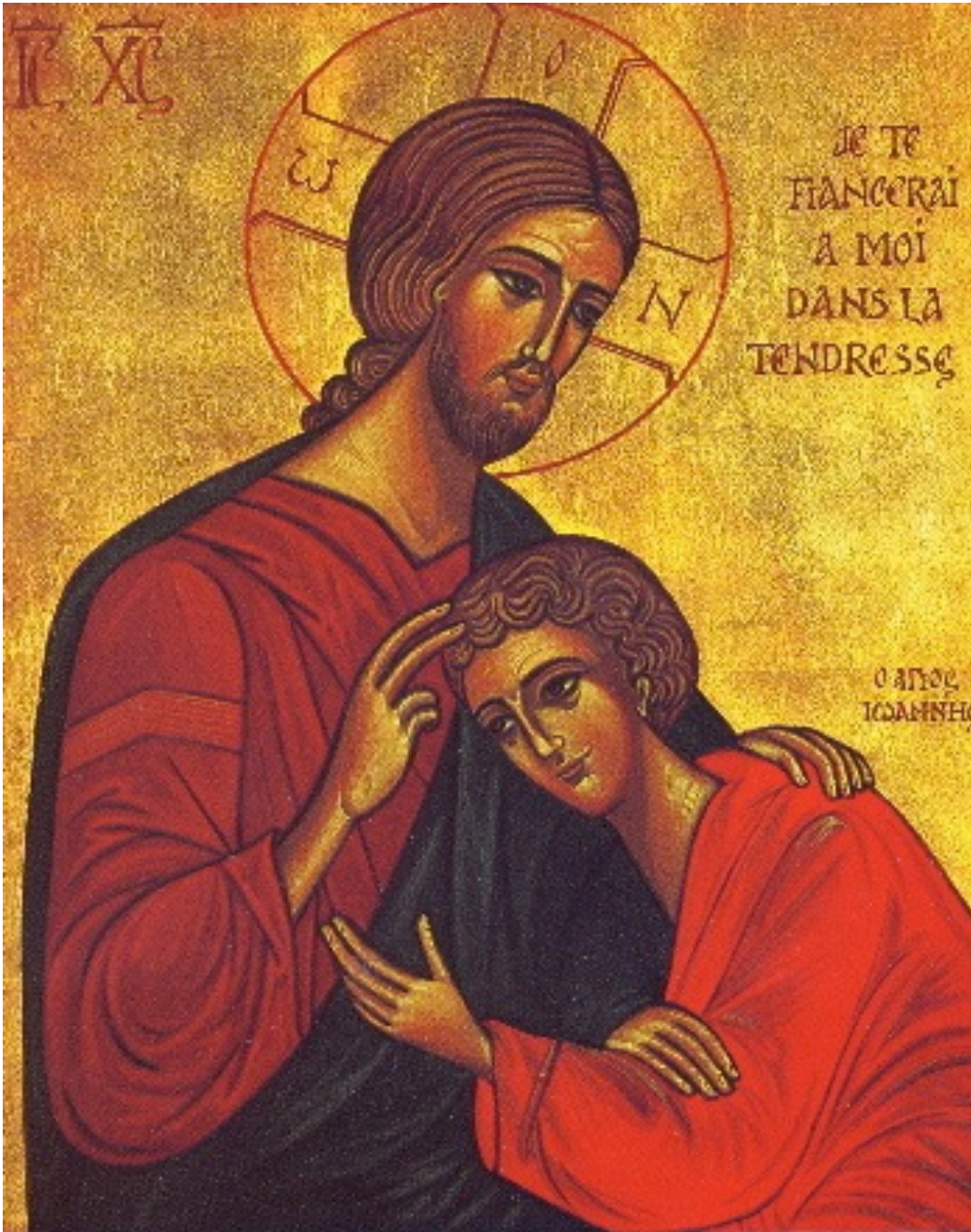


The Jesus that won Paul's Heart I



Rublev



Pope Francis

‘Evangelii Gaudium’

‘The Joy of the Gospel’

‘I have said these things to you so that **my joy** may be in you, and that **your joy** may be complete’(John 15:11; quoted n.5).

Christian Belief

Christian Living

Church

Creation

Education

Fundamentalism

God

Islam

Jesus

Liturgy

Mission

MSC

New Testament

Old Testament

Pope Francis

Prayer

Priesthood

Religious Life

RCIA/Cursillo.

www.mbfallon.com

A u d i o C D ' s H o m i l i e s A r t i c l e s

Welcome to my site

Index of Topics

Click on “New Testament” (left menu)

Then on “Paul”

Then on “2. Jesus who won Paul’s Heart”

‘The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew.

In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church’s journey in years to come.’

The opening paragraph of the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis
24th November 2013, Feast of Christ the King.

Including a presentation of
the results of the Synod on Evangelisation held in Rome in 2012 (see n.16, 73).

The Joy of the Gospel (nn. 2-18)

The Importance of 'knowing' the real Jesus

‘A dignified and fulfilled life’ : ‘the life in the Spirit which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ’^(n.2)

‘I never tire of repeating those words of Benedict XVI which take us to the very heart of the Gospel: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction” (“God is love”, 1; quoted n.7).

‘All of us need to grow in Christ. Evangelization should stimulate a desire for this growth, so that each of us can say wholeheartedly: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (*Galatians* 2:20) (n. 160).

‘A true missionary, who never ceases to be a disciple, knows that Jesus walks with him, speaks to him, breathes with him, works with him. He senses Jesus alive with him in the midst of the missionary enterprise. Unless we see him present at the heart of our missionary commitment, our enthusiasm soon wanes and we are no longer sure of what it is that we are handing on; we lack vigour and passion. A person who is not convinced, enthusiastic, certain and in love, will convince nobody’ (n. 266).

1John 1:1-3



‘We declare to you what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked at and touched with
our hands, concerning the word of life —
this life was revealed, and we have seen it
and testify to it, and declare to you the
eternal life that was with the Father and
was revealed to us.

We declare to you what we have seen and
heard so that you may have communion
with us;

and truly our communion is with the
Father and with his Son Jesus the Messiah.’

We are privileged to have the portrait of Jesus given us by [Paul](#)

This is enriched by the portraits we find in the [Four Gospels](#). Each Gospel presents its own , necessarily limited, portrait of Jesus, and its own interpretive commentary. Each Gospel aims to communicate the significance of the real Jesus to the communities for which it was composed.

The fact that the four Gospels were treasured, copied, and read in the Christian assemblies in the East, in Egypt, in Asia Minor, in Greece and in Rome, is the source of our confidence that in each of the Gospels and in the four together we are seeing and hearing the real Jesus.

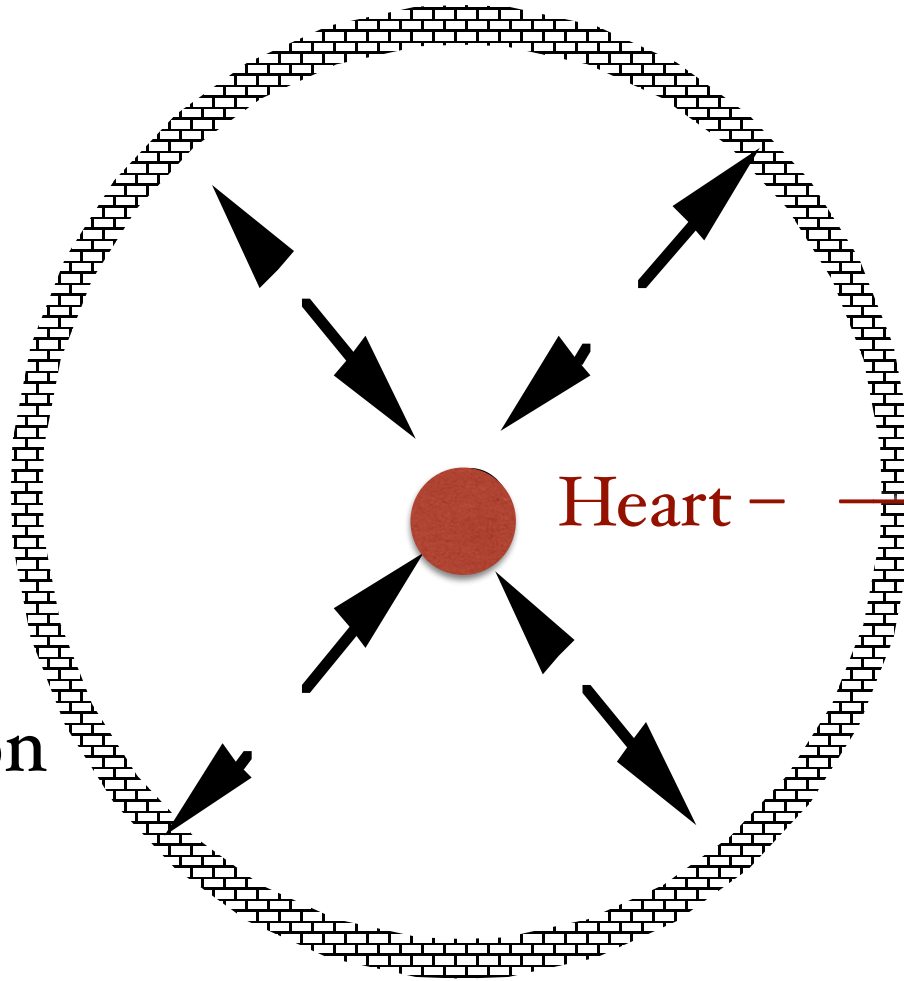
Too busy

Iso gashii

忙

heart

destruction



Heart - - - ???

Religious

Experience

Re + ligare To bind back

God
Sanskrit **Ghu** ('called' 'calling') + **To** ('The one')



Religious
Experience is
Experience of
Communion with 'God'

God 'The Heart and the Beyond of Everything' (Teilhard de Chardin)

Holy

God's **WORD** (self-gift) is experienced

- in nature
- in people & events
- in words spoken & written
- in works of art

They reveal something of the truth, beauty & goodness
of the transcendent & mysterious God

Gerard Manley Hopkins : God's Grandeur (1877)

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod? reckon: consider

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs –
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and ah! bright wings.

God's **WORD** (self-gift) is experienced

- the Vedas & Upanishads
- the sayings of K'ung-fu-tzu (Confucius)
- the sayings of Gautama the Buddha
- the oracles of the Hebrew Scriptures
- the New Testament
- the Moslem Qur'an
- the mystics, poets, artists of all cultures

Danger

Projecting a 'God' limited by our human experiences

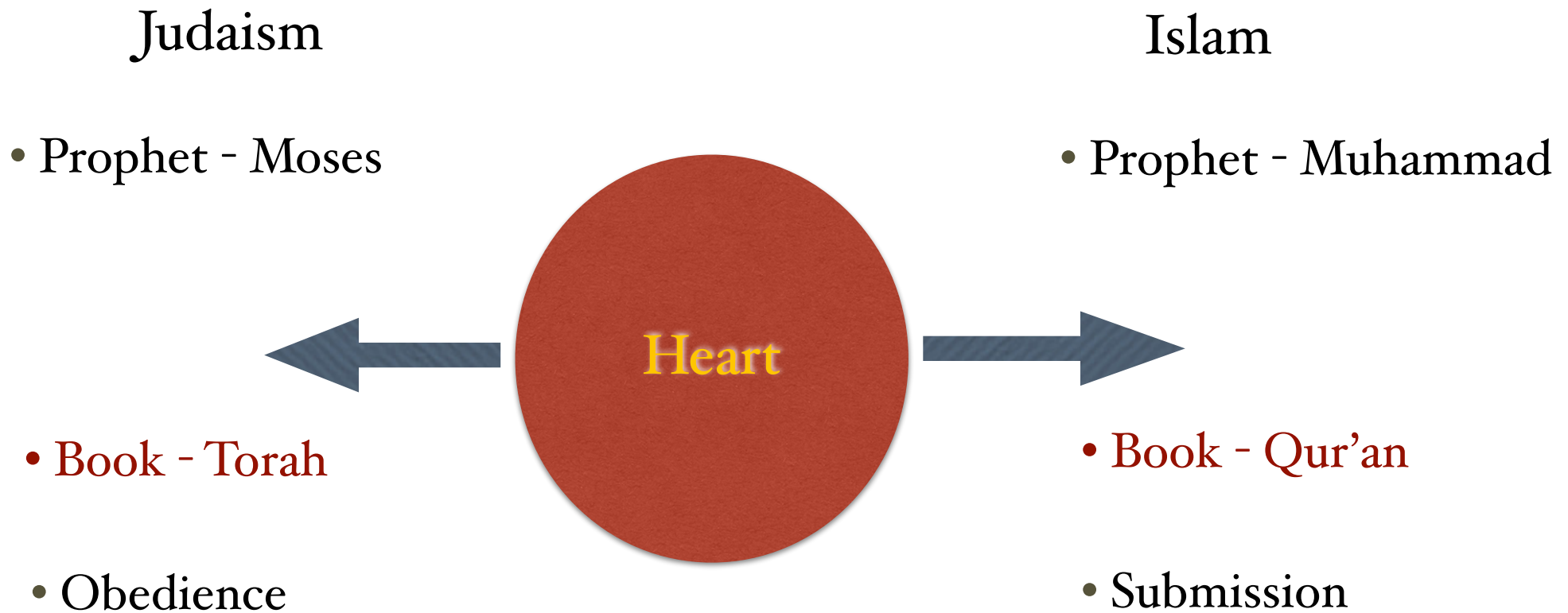
Creating a 'God' in our own image

This spawns

atheism: the rejection of a limited God

agnosticism: failure to explore the implications of our experience

Dangers in Institutionalised Religion





Matthew 11:28-29

Buddhism

points us to the heart





Heart



speaks to



heart



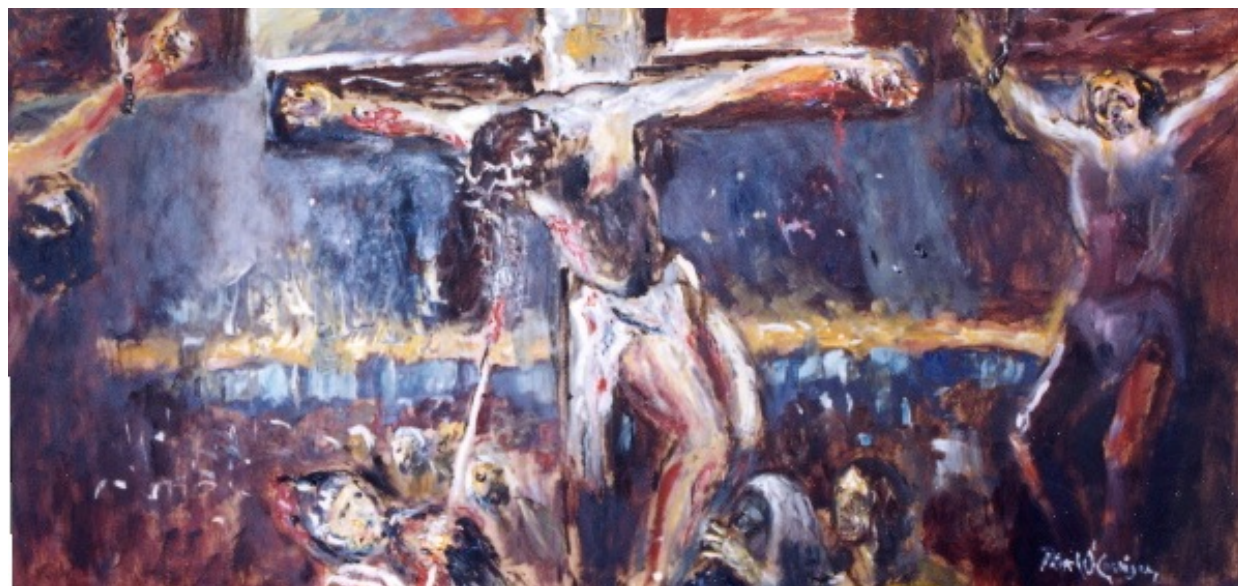
John 3:34

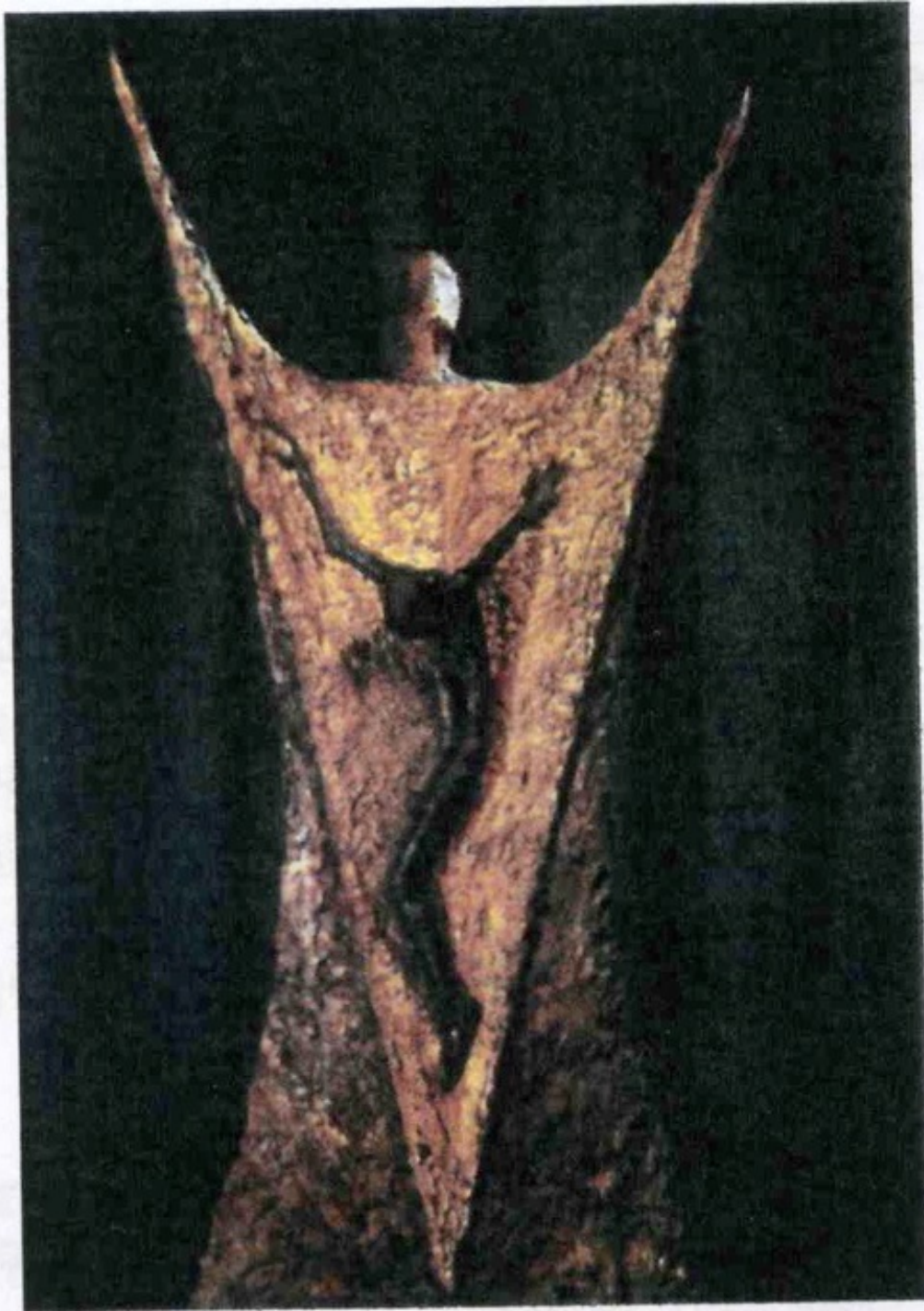
‘He whom God has sent
speaks the words of
God;

he gives the Spirit
without measure.’

Romans 5:5

‘God’s love has been
poured into our hearts by
the Holy Spirit who has
been given to us.’





- ‘I am in the Father and you are in me and I in you’(John 14:20).
- ‘I pray that they will be one as we are one, with me in them and you in me’(John 17:21).



Tintoretto

‘I have come to cast fire upon the earth
and how I wish it were blazing already’ (Luke 12:49)

Teilhard de Chardin 1934

‘Some day,
after harnessing space,
the winds,
the tides
and gravitation,

We shall harness for God
the energies of Love.

And then,
for the second time in the history of the
world,
we shall have discovered fire.’

‘You have made us for yourself, O God,
and our hearts are restless till they rest in you’ (Augustine Confessions I.1).

Roman Catechism, Council of Trent, 1545-1563, Preface 10.

‘The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching
must be directed to the love that never ends.
Whether something is proposed for belief,
for hope or for action,
the love of our Lord must always be made accessible,
so that anyone can see
that all the works of perfect Christian virtue
spring from love
and have no other objective
than to arrive at love.’



‘I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete’(John 15:11).

Open my eyes, Lord (singles)



1 Timothy 2:4

‘God desires everyone
to be saved,
and to come to the
knowledge of the truth.’

An aerial view
of ancient
Babylon.



Samaritan priest





Jerusalem Temple

Jude mit Tora



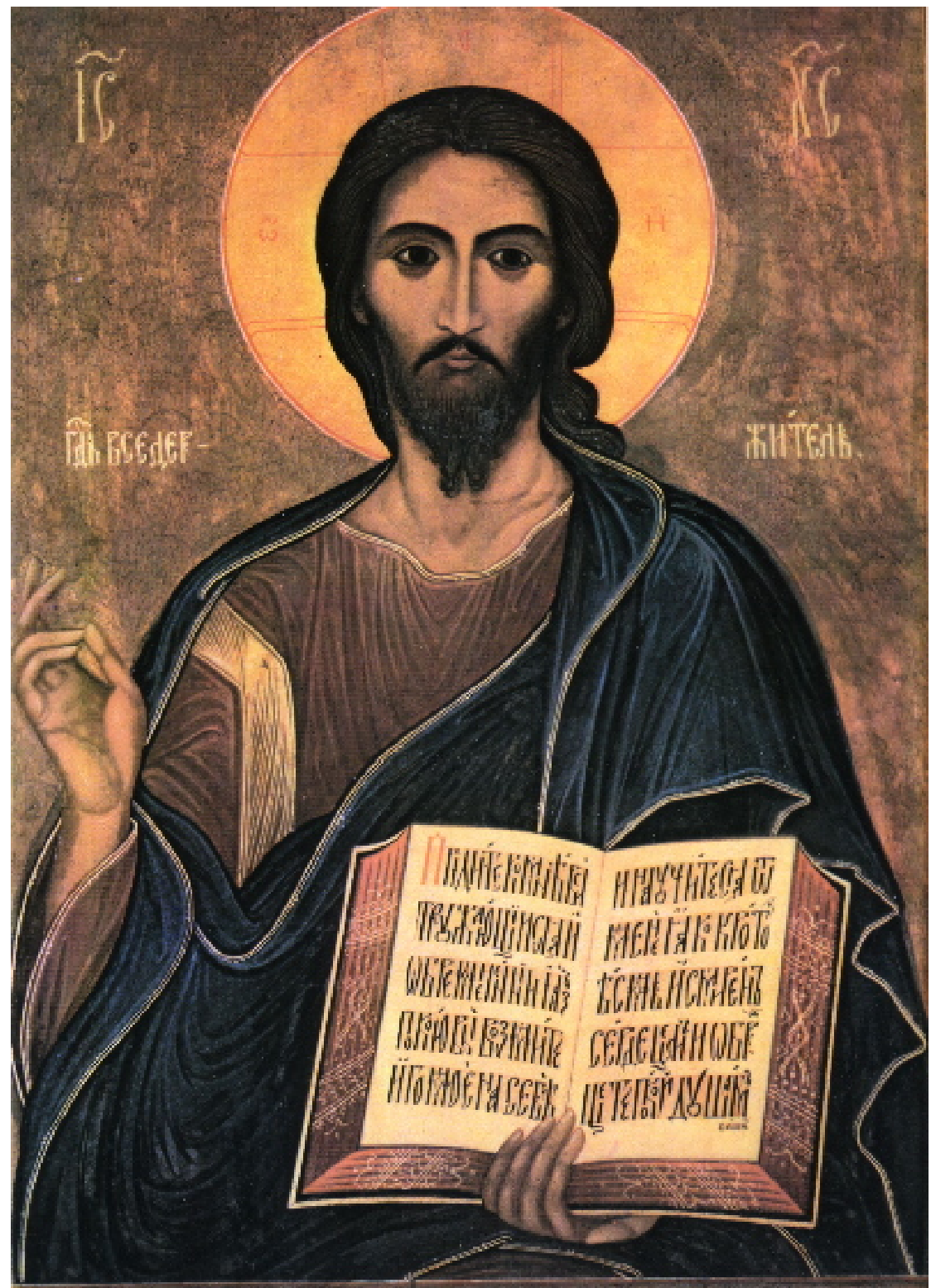
Albrecht Alt

Nazareth market



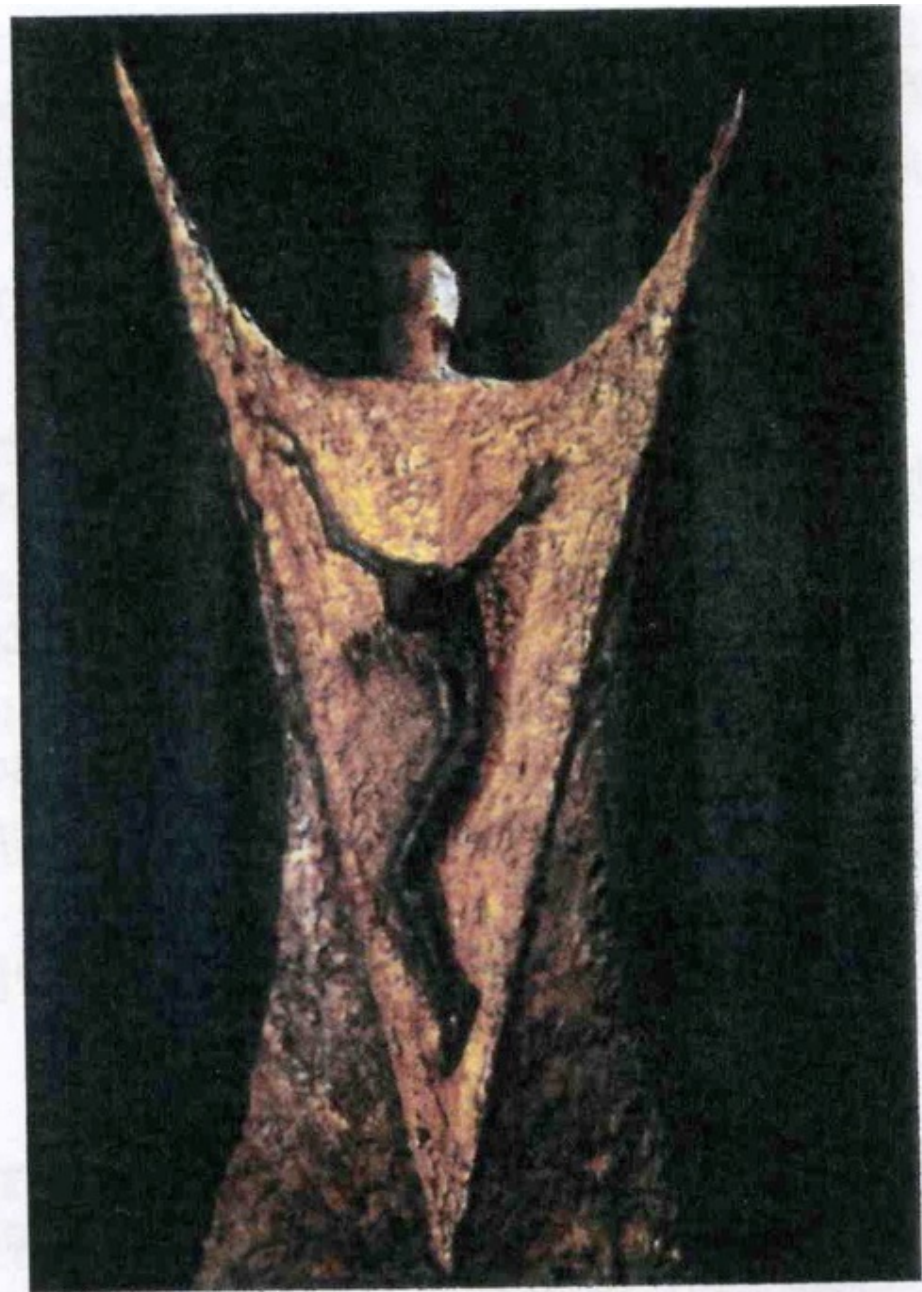
Jesus of Nazareth

He is the climax of God's self-giving to the human race, and the climax of our response.



Jesus calls Matthew to follow him (Carravaggio)



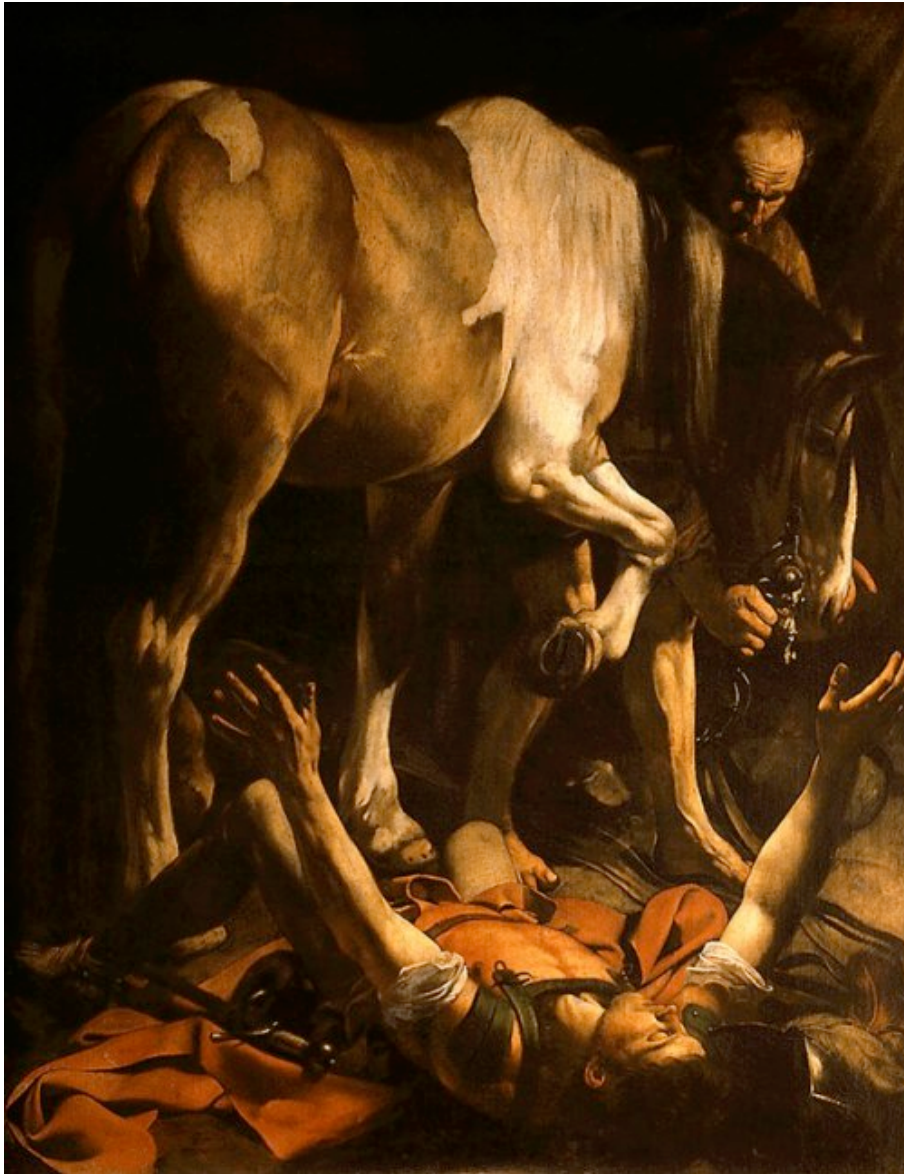




Tintoretto 1592

33 Jesus is crucified

34 Paul's Enlightenment on the road to Damascus



‘I received the Gospel through a revelation of Jesus Christ’ (Galatians 1:12).

‘God was pleased to reveal his Son in me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles’ (Galatians 1:15-16).

‘Have I not seen the Lord’ (1 Cor 9:1).

‘Last of all, as to one untimely born, he was seen also by me’ (1 Cor 15:8).

Caravaggio



- **34AD** Paul's enlightenment at Damascus
- **37AD** short visit to Jerusalem, then home to Tarsus.
- **45AD** in community at Antioch
- **47-48AD** Journey to Southern Galatia

47-48

Missionary Journey to Cyprus and Southern Galatia

Acts 13:1 – 14:28
(see 2 Timothy 3:11)



48 ‘Certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved’(Acts 15:1) See Galatians 2:4

It is this same group who have been instilling fear into the Galatians.

‘It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised – only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh’(Galatians 6:12-13).

Paul writes from Antioch to the churches in Galatia

‘Paul an apostle *sent* ... by Jesus *Christ* and God the Father’(Galatians 1:1)
See Acts 13:1-4



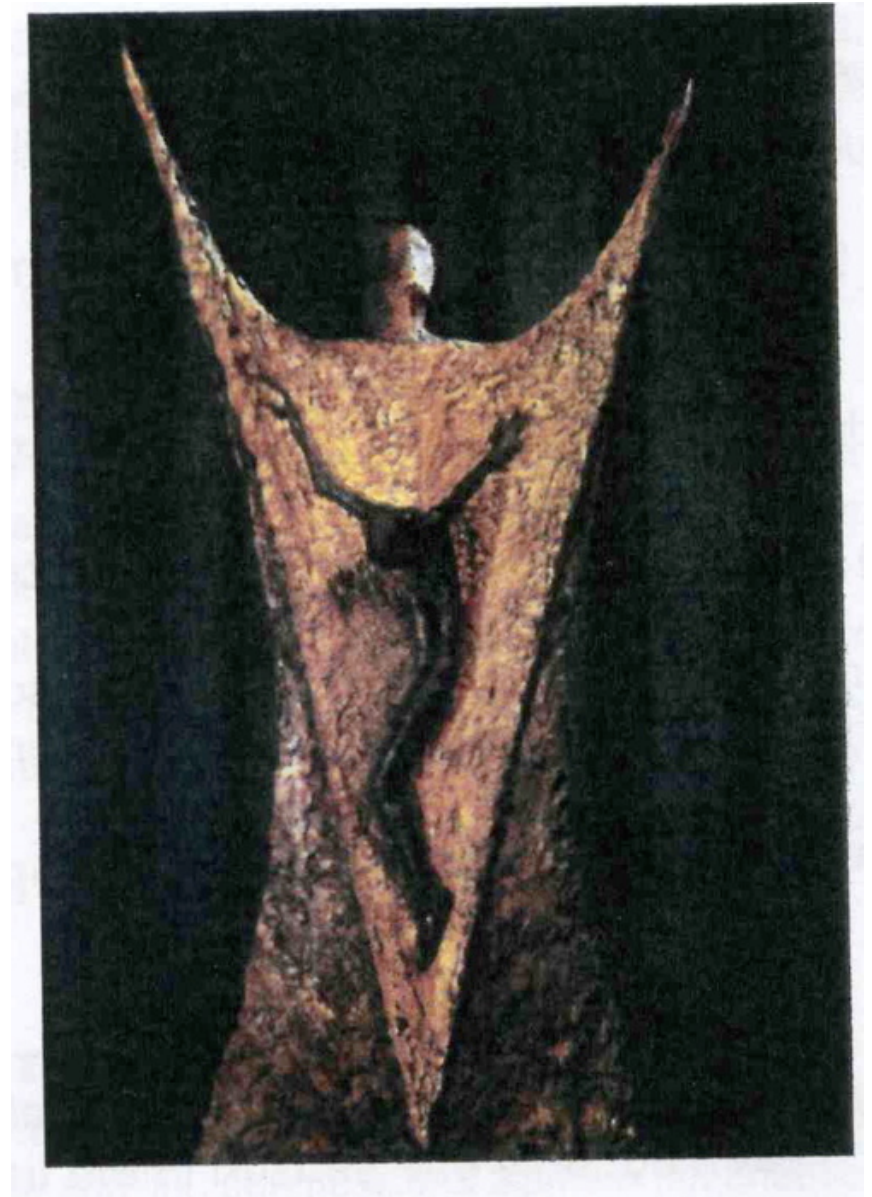
Caravaggio

Galatians 1:3-5

‘*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,*

who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age,

according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.’



Paul's core experience was of being loved by Christ

(**'he gave himself'** 1:4),

Only God's love, the love of Christ poured into our hearts by his Spirit, has the power to transform the world.

‘There are some who are frightening you
and who want to pervert the gospel of Christ’(Galatians 1:7).

‘God was pleased to reveal his Son in me, so that I might
proclaim him among the Gentiles’(Galatians 1:16).

‘A person is justified not by the works of the law but through the faith of Jesus Christ’(Galatians 2:16).

This is Paul’s earliest statement of what he calls

‘the gospel we proclaimed to you’(1:8),

‘the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles’(2:2),

‘the truth of the gospel’(2:5,14),

the essence of what he

‘received through a revelation of Jesus Christ’(1:12),

the central insight that God gave to Paul when

‘he was pleased to reveal his Son in me’(1:16).

We are free to accept or reject God's gift
(**'the faith of Jesus Christ'**, 2:16).

We accept in by "believing in" (directing our faith towards) Jesus'.

‘I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, loving me and giving himself for me’(Galatians 2:20).

‘I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death’(Philippians 3:10).

To the presbyters at Miletus he says:

‘I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God’s grace’ (Acts 20:24).

‘Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying ‘Abba! Father!’(Galatians 4:6).

‘For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand fast, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery’(Galatians 5:1).

‘In Christ Jesus ... the only thing that counts is faith working through love’(Galatians 5:6).

‘You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’(Galatians 5:13-14).

‘The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control’(Galatians 5:22).

To ‘belong to Christ’(3:29) we must die with him on the cross,
die to our selfishness (‘ego’) (5:24)
nurture our true selves
and give ourselves in love for others.

It is to live ‘in Christ’(2:16-17; 3:26-28; 5:6).

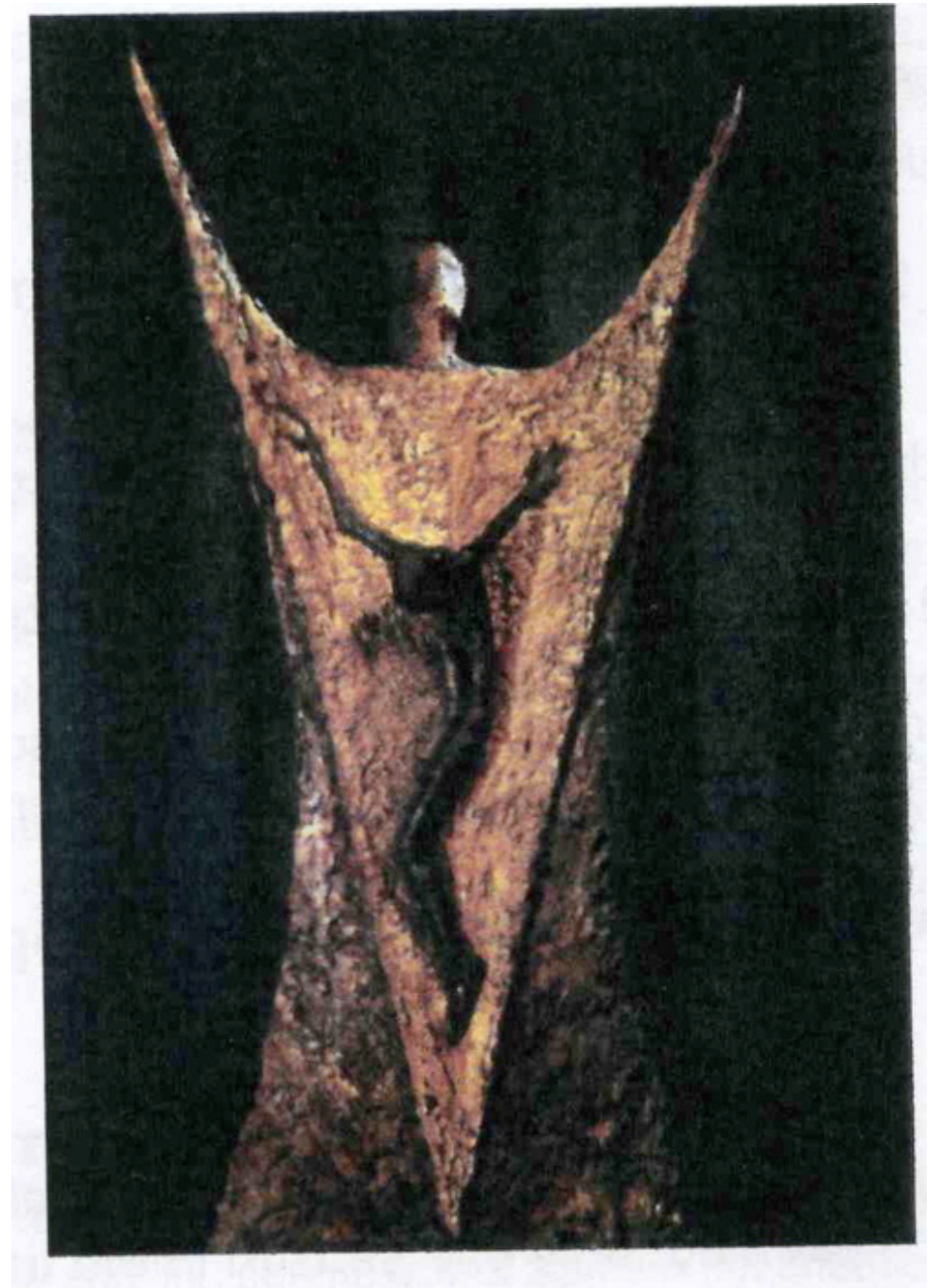
It is to be ‘clothed with Christ’(3:27).

It is to have Christ as our Lord (1:3,10)

our Redeemer (1:4; 2:20; 3:13; 4:4-5; 5:1).

It is to live by his Spirit (4:6).

‘I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world ... a new creation is everything!’(Galatians 6:14-15).



Hear Paul saying to the Galatians

‘My need for communion with God took me to the law.

I was committed to observing every last detail of it.

Then, in his mercy, God revealed God’s Self to me in Jesus.

I realised that the answer to my need was communion with Jesus.

I was attracted to him. I wanted to share his secret.

I wanted to share his life.

I wanted to be able to give my life in love the way I saw him giving his.

The law did not make this possible.

When he embraced me from the cross and poured his Spirit into my heart, my fascination with the law died. I fixed my eyes upon him.

I saw that the purpose of the law has been achieved in the faith of Jesus.

In giving me his Spirit, he gave me a share in his faith.

Now I can live for God.

continued on following slide

continued from the previous slide

The love of the Father into which I have been invited,
the embrace of the Son,
the communion in the Spirit
issuing from the pierced heart of my crucified Lord,
has put to death in me the distracted desires
that dominated my existence.

The law of God has been written now in my heart,
and with it the power to keep it.

For I am a child of God,
living already through his Spirit the life of his Son.

May nothing separate me from this love.

And may nothing separate you, my dear Galatians. Amen.'

Will you love me? (singles)