

# +WEEKLY SERMON

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## Christ is the image of the invisible God

*Colossians 1:15 – 28*

When I was at primary school, we all had to take a colour blindness test. You may have taken one, where you are shown a series of pictures containing different coloured dots which make up a number.

It's called the Ishihara test. I clearly remember the difficulty I had with some of these images, and it didn't matter how many times that I was asked, 'What number is that?' Frustratingly I just could not see it, it was just a splodge of coloured dots.

Some weeks later my parents received a standard letter saying that their 'son' could not be an airline pilot, or a train driver because 'he' was colour blind (this was back in the 1970s!) because colour blindness in females is rarer than in males.

Thankfully being colour blind has not affected my career! But it does mean that I see things differently to other people, though of course it is perfectly normal to me ... I see the world through a different lens.

In this wonderful passage from Colossians I am reminded of this, as Paul reflects on the big question of how we see God who is invisible where 'in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible'. He poetically explains that we 'see' God in Jesus, the crucified Christ is the invisible God made visible.

As well as not 'seeing' the numbers in those tests, I also missed out on those occasions during the last 12 months where the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) have been more visible in the UK (I was fast asleep!).

However, what people found was that by taking a photograph of this amazing phenomenon meant that they were even more clear, colourful and spectacular than they were with the naked eye.

Seeing, literally through a camera lens, rather than just the lens of the eye made the lights brighter. If my chromosomes were different, I would see the numbers, and it is only through fixing our gaze on Jesus that we are enabled to 'see' God, for who He is.

To see His majesty through His creation, to know Him as our Father, and as our Saviour. It is through the lens of the Holy Spirit, through Christ the Word made flesh that we are able to see the invisible God. May we all see through fresh eyes God made known to us in Jesus. Amen.

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