

「見えない神のかたち」
コロサイ人への手紙 1章 15 節

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ABSTRACT Akio ITO, “The Image of the Invisible God: Colossians 1:15”. Trying to answer the question why the second commandment of the decalogue, i. e., the prohibition of idolatry, is not violated by worshipping the incarnate Son of God, the paper approaches the ‘image of the invisible God (εἰκὼν τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ ἀοράτου)’ (Col. 1:15) exegetically. After a short survey of the usage of the word εἰκὼν in the New Testament and the phrase ‘the image of God’, the paper is devoted to an analysis of the hymn of Christ (1:15-20), where the phrase occurs. Since the hymn presents the Son of God as the creator and the redeemer, it follows that he himself is God. The paper concludes with the suggestion that the Son is presented as the image of the invisible God rather than God Himself because of the historical background of the Imperial Cult and the Roman political ideology, which take advantage of images of emperors to insinuate the imperial rule into the whole populace of the Roman empire.