The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests,

a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would

also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

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## "Let the Beauty of Jesus Be Seen in Me"

## by Bryan Gibson

Do we understand just how beautiful our lives can be? Perhaps the following questions will help us all to see how much potential lies within each one of us—how much God can accomplish in "His workmanship" (Ephesians 2:10).

What if we sincerely loved Jesus more than anyone else? (Luke 7:47; Eph. 6:24; Matt. 10:37). Wouldn't that make a huge difference? And why wouldn't we love Him that much, considering He did for us what no one else could do, made us what no one else could make us, gave us blessings no one else could give us, and promises to give us even more in eternity?

And what if we loved Jesus so much we were willing to do anything He asked? (John 14:15, 21, 23; Acts 3:22-23; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15). Wouldn't that be beautiful?

What if we kept on living by faith, even when everything around us seemed to be falling apart? (Job 13:15; Habakkuk 3:17-19; Hebrews 11). Think others would notice? Think we might just draw others to Him?

What if we were completely "color blind," or prejudice free—if we saw every person as "made from one blood"? (Acts 17:26; James 2:1). Racial prejudice is an ugly sight; the complete absence of it is just the opposite.

What if we could remember how we "once were" and were able to show "all humility to all men"? (Titus 3:1-7). Think we might be able to influence more people for good?

And what if we honored all men by making ourselves their servants? (1 Peter 2:17; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23). That's what Paul did, and the beauty of Jesus could certainly be seen in him.

What if our greatest desire for others is that they be saved? (Romans 10:1; 1 Timothy 2:4). Just how large would the family of God be if we shared that desire?

What if we cleaned the "inside of the cup" and not just the outside—if getting the heart right was a top priority? (Matthew 23:25-28).

What if we got rid of bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking and malice, and replaced them with kindness, tender-heartedness, forgiveness, patience, and courtesy? (Ephesians 4:31-32; 1 Peter 3:8). Wouldn't that help us better "adorn the doctrine of God"? (Titus 2:10).

What if we forgave those who sinned against us, and enjoyed doing so? (Matthew 6:12, 14-15, 18:21-22; Micah 7:18).

What if we replaced complaining with thanksgiving? (Philippians 2:14; Ephesians 5:20). While thanksgiving is called a "sacrifice of praise to God" (Hebrews 13:15), we can't find a single good word about complaining.

What if we were completely free of envy—if we truly were able to rejoice with those who rejoice? (James 3:14, 16; Romans 12:15).

What if we talked less and listened more—if we truly were interested in what others had to say? (James 1:19; Proverbs 10:19; 17:27; 19:20, 27; 23:22). Think that might widen our influence for good? Can't help people if we don't know what they need, and we won't know what they need if we don't listen.

What if we DID have the "peace that surpasses understanding"? (Philippians 4:6-7). Think others might want to know the secret?

What if instead of getting mad we humbly received correction from others? (Proverbs 9:8; 13:18; 28:23; Psalms 141:5). How much different would our lives look today if we had been doing that all along?

What if seeking revenge was never an option? (Romans 12:17-21). The ones who have brought us the most harm, the very ones we're tempted to seek revenge against—they might just be won to the Lord if "we overcome evil with good."

What if we did for others the very things we want them to do for us, and kept on doing them even when they didn't? (Matthew 7:12; Luke 14:12-14).

What if we spent more time chasing the things that last than the things that don't? (1 Timothy 6:6-12).

Many more questions could be offered, but let's close with the first verse of the hymn from which the title of this article is based: "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me, all His wonderful passion and purity, may His spirit divine all my being refine, let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me."