



Four Portraits, One *Savior*



That you may
have *life*

Seeing the Father through the Son's Eyes

John 14:7-11



1. Jesus is the “**window**” through which we know God. How open that “window” is will impact whether or not we **fully know** God.

A. Philip – does not understand who Jesus really is. Why?

- V 7 If **you had known Me**, you **would have known** the Father also, ...⁹ **Have I been so long with you** and yet you **have not come to know Me**, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; **how can you say**, ‘Show us the Father.’”

B. Closed windows created a “brain-block” about who Jesus was for the disciples:

- John 10:30
- John 12:45
- John 1:18





2. Jesus *shows us* the Father simply by the way the Father interacts with the Son. Each interaction acts as a *window* to the nature of God.
- A. *Present*. V10. “... the Father *abiding in Me* does His works.”
 - B. *Personal*. V11. “Believe me that *I am in the Father* and the *Father is in Me*, ...
 - C. *Trustworthy*. V10. “The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, *but the Father ... does His works*.”
 - D. *Empowering*. V 11. “otherwise believe because of the *works themselves*.” (John 5:19-20)





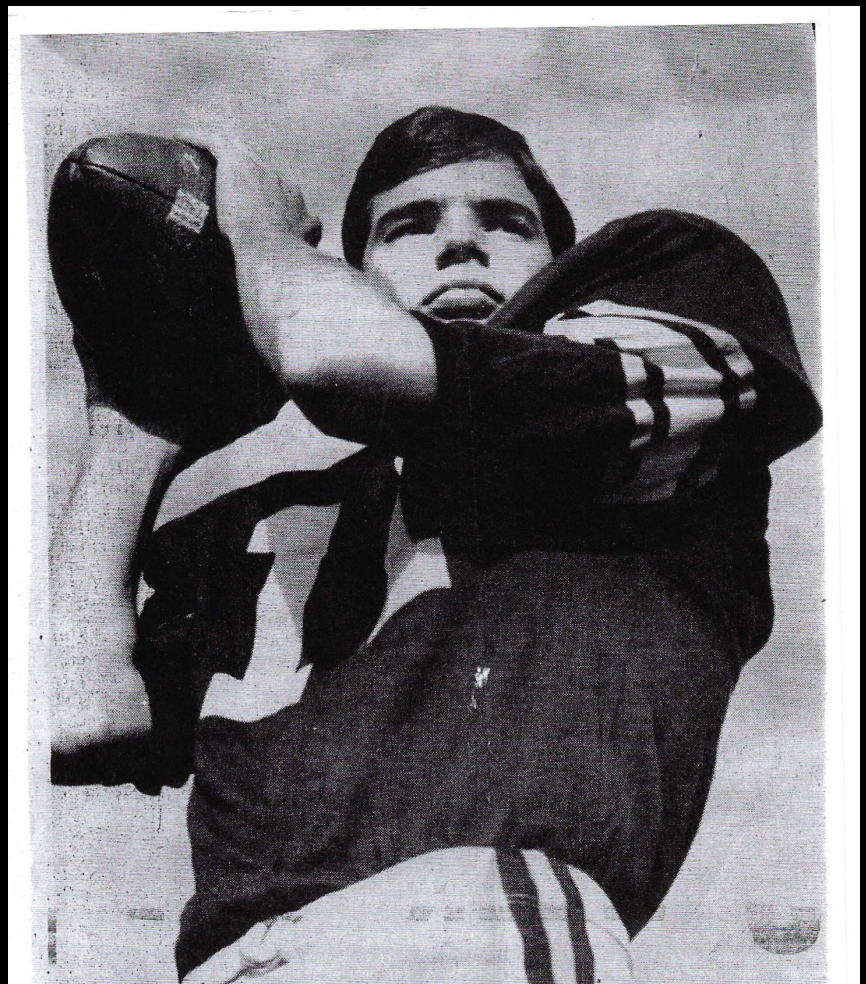
3. *The greatest impact a dad can have on his children is to **allow Jesus** to **impact him**.*

- *V9. **Have I been so long with you** and yet you have not come to **know Me**, Philip? He who has **seen Me** has **seen the Father**; **how can you say**, ‘Show us the Father.’”*
- *Modern-day research on the impact of dads:*
 - *Families and Faith* by Vern L. Bengtson
 - *Growing Up With a Single Parent* by Sara McLanahan
 - *Opportunity Insights – Harvard University* (Raj Chetty)

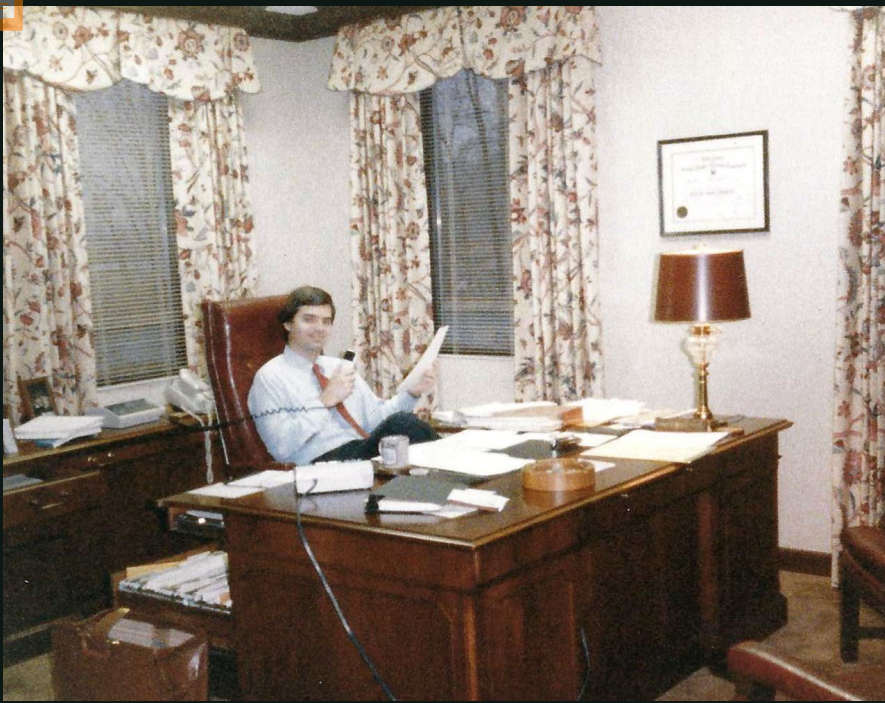




Before I could choose God, my parents put me in the church nursery. That continued through high school **whether I liked it or not**. My mom taught Sunday School. I **never** missed a Sunday. I first learned how to pray on the baseball field.



It was not until football camp as a rising senior that I came to **know Jesus personally**. My Sunday School teacher "**tricked**" me into going to an FCA camp.



This is my graduation from Southern Seminary in 1991. I was called to be the pastor of Bethany Lane Baptist Church within a few months after my graduation. My calling was to “spiritually dead” churches.

As a young man, I set up my own CPA firm with another man. It was during this time that I took Masterlife and discovered that I had the spiritual gift of teaching. God called me to ministry about 3 years later.





My family “kept showing up” when I became your pastor in 1991. This is my family portrait for the church directory (1993) after arriving to Bethany Lane in 1991. *My sons didn’t want to come to church either.* They volunteered in the children’s ministry as youth so they could *get out of worship.* Perhaps that was God “measuring back” my inability to stay still in sermons as a youth. *My sons, like me, found Jesus at camp,* not in the church pew. I had to make my oldest son go to youth camp. *Had I not,* who knows where he would be with Jesus right now!

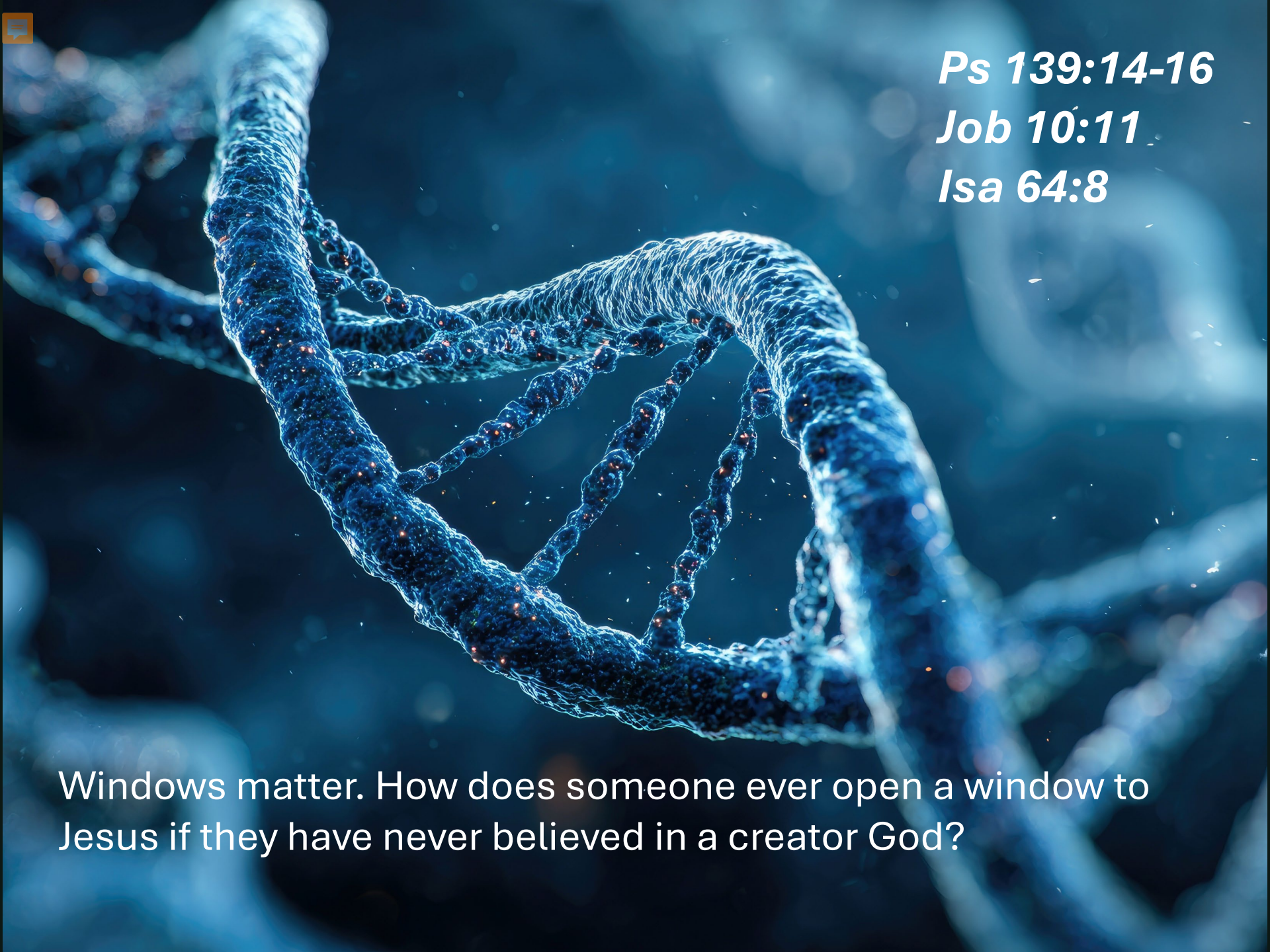


This is my dad holding my son, Jon, at 6 months. He died 6 months later at age 52. *My dad was my first portrait of Jesus.* He *reflected* Jesus to me before *I knew how to read.* He was never financially successful. *But that didn't matter to me.* My dad *loved Jesus.* *Loving Jesus changed his life.* If I had to describe my dad in one word it would be: *grace.* *I first discovered the meaning of grace through my dad's interaction with me. He prepared me for what I would one day discover in Jesus.*

Calls to Action.

- A. Men – is there any way you can give an hour or so of your time to Manquest on Saturday mornings? Vic – is there anyway we can add a “father/son,” “Men/boys,” option to Manquest? **Something that includes movement for the youngers, and respects their limited attentiveness? How can you be your child’s portrait of Jesus?***
- B. **You cannot give what you do not have.** Is your “window” cracked, partially open, or fully open to Jesus? Don’t let what you have always done or what you were taught, limit who God is in your life.*
- C. Church. We must discover how to love our children by volunteering in any and every way we can. **The church is a window to God that requires all hands-on-deck to raise the windows to fully open.** How can you serve?*





Ps 139:14-16

Job 10:11

Isa 64:8

Windows matter. How does someone ever open a window to Jesus if they have never believed in a creator God?