

Friedrich Nietzsche said in his work, “The Joyous Wisdom,” that ‘God is dead.’

Nietzsche's idea was that striving, self-centered humanity had killed God. Nietzsche was raised in a very dour denomination that limited most of life's pleasures.

That is, the Christians of Nietzsche's time, at least those he had observed, had managed to ‘box God in’ in such a way that God was no longer relevant.

Speaking as an engineer, when you put a box around infinity, you are in reality not boxing ‘something’ in, rather, you are boxing ‘everything’ out.

In our own day and age, we have Richard Dawkins’ “The God Delusion.”

And there may be something to this: is the modern world, are modern Christians, deluded about who God really is?

Instead of becoming the men and women God has created us to be ... has modern Christianity re-formed God into a neutral, inert, unimportant ‘thing?’

In the first reading, we hear of how God makes a covenant with Abraham and his descendents FOREVER. Forever is a very long, long, time.

And in the Gospel, Jesus is trying to explain to his listeners his relationship with God the Father. And instead of really listening, they're trying to pick his words apart. And when they can't stand to hear any more of what he has to say, “they picked up stones to throw at him.”

Jesus was most definitely pushing their buttons – but not out of some twisted effort to ‘get their goat’ and laugh and walk away.

Rather, I would propose that all of us have in some way shut God out of somewhere in our lives – or in other words have ‘killed God’ by not allowing His life, His love, His grace into some place in our hearts, our minds, our lives.

And in some way, all of us are ‘deluded’ about our image of God. We have to be very careful to let God be God, and not re-create God in our own image – based on our prejudices, culture, and short-comings.

So let us ask for the openness to receive the Light of Christ in our hearts, minds, and lives. Let us pray for the grace to allow God's life, love, and grace into EVERY part of our beings. Let us beg God to reveal Himself to us in a mighty and powerful way – in a way that gives no question about who God is, and that He lives.

And as we move into Holy Week and Easter, may we die to our own weaknesses and rise in the strength of Christ's glory.