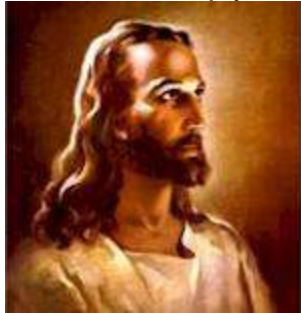


## Warner Sallman's Head of Christ: An American Icon

With the possible exception of Leonardo Da Vinci's Last Supper, no picture of Jesus is etched so deeply into our imaginations than the Head of Christ, painted in 1940 by



Warner Sallman. ... The Head of Christ has been reproduced over 500 million times, making it one of the most popular art works of all time.

**The most popular picture of Jesus of all time.**

For many of us this image is part of our childhood, having been hung on the walls of Bible School classrooms and the halls and offices of church buildings. ... So important is this painting that the Lilly Endowment funded a major study of the impact of Sallman's art upon religion in America. Recently, David Morgan, an art historian who teaches at Valparaiso University, published a book on the impact this painting has had upon an entire generation around the world. During the course of his study, Morgan interviewed hundreds of people about their feeling for Sallman's Head of Christ. As one woman put it, the picture appeals to her simply because it shows, "Just what Jesus looked like."

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**(CAB'S NOTE:** I lifted this picture and article from a web site I "googled" using "Picture of Jesus" as the search phrase. I excerpted and edited it some. It is for info purposes only. I looked for and found this after I had written the article below. I had always thought this to be the most popular artist's concept of how Jesus looked while on earth, and this article confirms it. The article goes on to properly say; no one knows how He actually looked. Please read my article below and think about what may be known concerning our future.)

## **THE FACE OF JESUS**

Many artists have attempted to paint their imaginations of how Jesus looked when He walked among men. The only thing certain about it is that none of them can be certain how He actually looked.

I am also quite certain that knowledge of His physical appearance is not essential to my soul's salvation, or some provision would be made for the procurement of that information. However, it is natural to be curious. Inspiration tells us when our wonder will be satisfied. Jesus ascended to heaven from Mount Olivet and a cloud received Him from sight. Those who watched were told, "...*Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.*" (Acts 1:11) The last book of the Bible reveals, "*Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*" (Rev. 1:7) John wrote, "*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*" (1 John 3:2-3) We shall all see Jesus, and those who have purified themselves shall be like Him.

While we cannot know how Jesus looked when He appeared in the flesh, we can know "Him". John instructs, *"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."* (1 John 2:3-4) To obey Him is to recognize His Lordship and to do His commandments is to purify oneself.

There is in the heart of every Christian a longing to see the Lord's face. Some day faith will become sight and hope will give place to fruition. As the poet has said, "After pain and anguish, after toil and care, we shall see the King some day."

CAB