

Subject: *God's Glory Revealed in Christ*

Scripture: *John 1:1-18*

Long before Christ was born the prophets predicted His coming and they said God's glory would be revealed in Him.

Isaiah 40:5 *And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*

When Christ came God's glory was in fact revealed to those who had spiritual eyes to see. The apostle John tells us three things about God's glory revealed in Christ.

1. GOD'S GLORY IN CHRIST HAS BEEN REVEALED TO ALL (vs. 1-9)

Of all truth, this is the greatest truth the world has ever known. Christ is revealed four ways:

- Christ is the Word (vs. 1-2, 14) – Christ is the eternal Word, the divine Word, and the incarnate Word. He is the ultimate communication of God to man.

John 14:9 *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?*

Colossians 1:15 *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature. "Image" was used of an image stamped on a coin. Christ is the visible expression of the invisible God. By nature God is invisible because He is a Spirit (Jn. 4:24).*

Colossians 2:9 *For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*

- Christ is the Creator (vs. 3)

Colossians 1:16-17¹⁶ *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*¹⁷ *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

- Christ is the Light (vs. 4-9)

John 8:12 *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

John 9:5 *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*

- Christ is the only begotten Son (vs. 14, 18)

Jesus is God's only begotten (unique, one-of-a-kind) Son. "Dwelt" (vs. 14) means pitched his tent (tabernacle). The tabernacle was the place where God revealed His glory in the Old Testament. "Declared" (vs. 18) comes from a common Greek word used in Bible times to describe a person drawing water out of a well, a writer interpreting a difficult part of his work, a lawyer explaining the law, and a person revealing someone that had been hidden from view.

2. GOD'S GLORY IN CHRIST HAS BEEN REJECTED BY MANY (vs. 10-11)

Of all tragedies, this is the greatest tragedy the world has ever known.

- The world did not recognize Christ (vs. 10)

While believers beheld His glory (vs. 14), unbelievers saw no glory in Christ, as Isaiah predicted:

Isaiah 53:1-3 ¹ *Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?* ² *For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.* ³ *He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

- The world did not receive Christ (vs. 11)

The Jews looked for a Messiah that would be a Reigning Ruler, but they were not looking for a Suffering Servant. Just as the tabernacle was very common and ordinary looking on the outside, but glorious and magnificent on the inside, Jesus looked very ordinary and most people didn't see His glory.

Christ came as the Light and exposed sin, and for this reason men rejected Him.

John 3:18-20 ¹⁸ *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.* ¹⁹ *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.* ²⁰ *For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.*

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 ³ *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:* ⁴ *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.* ⁵ *For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.* ⁶ *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

The Light came into this world, but people need spiritual sight as well as spiritual light. No one is so blind as those who refuse to see.

3. GOD'S GLORY IN CHRIST HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY SOME (vs. 12-18)

Of all transactions, this is the greatest transaction the world has ever known.

- Receiving Christ is simple (vs. 12)

To believe on His name is to believe in Him, His character, who He is. Believing is seeing. This is the look of faith, "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith."

- Receiving Christ is supernatural (vs. 12-13)

When we receive Christ we have the power (authority) to be in God's family and we are born of God. We have a new position and a new nature as God's children.

- Receiving Christ is sufficient (vs. 16)

When we receive Christ we receive Him that's all we need because we receive all His fullness. We don't get part of Christ, but all of Him and all He provides. Paul wrote in Colossians: "You are complete in Him." In Christ we receive "grace for grace," that is, one kind of grace after another. We receive grace that forgives, justifies, sanctifies, and strengthens us for everything we face in life. The Lord tells us, "My grace is sufficient for you."

Spurgeon once said: "You may study, look, and meditate, but Jesus is a greater Savior than you think He is, even when your thoughts are at their highest." And then he added this: "I cannot know Christ through another person's brain. I cannot love Him with another person's heart, and I cannot see Him with another person's eyes. I am so afraid of living in a second-hand religion. I must know Christ myself. O God, let me not be deceived in this. I must know Him on my own account."

Jesus Christ is God's greatest gift. He is the gift that keeps on giving.