

Beholding the Glory of Jesus

Mark 9:1-15

The greatest desire that Christ expressed in his prayer was that his people might be with him to behold his glory (John 17:24). It is clear that in this prayer the Lord Christ was referring to his own glory and the actual sight of it (John 17:4-5). He is not concerned that his disciples should merely see how glorious he was, but that the beholding of his glory might bring encouragement, strength, satisfaction and blessedness to his disciples....The Lord Christ desired that his disciples should see his glory in order that they might be filled with joy and happiness for evermore.

Only a sight of his glory, and nothing else, will truly satisfy God's people. The hearts of believers are like a magnetized needle which cannot rest until it is pointing north. So also, a believer, magnetized by the love of Christ, will always be restless until he or she comes to Christ and beholds his glory. The soul which can be satisfied without beholding the glory of Christ, that cannot be eternally satisfied with beholding the glory of Christ, is not a soul for whom Christ prays.

We can now lay down a great foundational truth: One of the greatest privileges the believer has, both in this world and for eternity, is to behold the glory of Christ.

John Owen, *The Glory of Christ*, 1-2.

I. IDEALLY

II. INTERMITTENTLY

III. IMPERFECTLY

A tremendous resource for individuals longing to behold the glory of Christ more clearly is John Owen's *The Glory of Christ*. We recommend R. J. K. Law's abridged version in the Puritan Paperbacks series published by The Banner of Truth (1994; ISBN: 08515516610). The above three sermon points are adapted from chapters 12-14 of this work.