

Messengers of God's Glory & Beauty

I. BEHOLDING THE GLORY OF GOD

- A. The central cry in Jesus' heart is for His people to ***"be with Him, where He is"*** and to ***"behold His glory" (John 17:24)***. This is the central cry in Jesus' heart because it is the *primary desire* in the Father's heart.
- B. What produces the inward experience? How does authentic heart transformation take place? Why do I have a desire for Jesus, for God, and to lay my life down for Him?

The Lord is the Spirit, the Spirit is the LORD, and wherever He is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. — 2 Cor. 3:17, 18

- C. Transformation takes place in the heart of men, not simply by changing our actions or methods, but by ***beholding*** something—the glory of God. That which we behold we become like. Whatever we fix our gaze upon and open our Spirit up to, we are transformed into the likeness thereof. The revelation of Jesus gives way to a Divine "wound" of love that produces a response of ravenous pursuit and worship.
- D. There is a fight for the "eye gate" of fascination (Matthew 6:22). The fight to behold God's glory is the fight for the eye gate of fascination.

Psalm 119: 37 — Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things.

Psalm 119:18 — Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things from Your law. I am a sojourner in the earth.

- E. Men are often looking for better methods, but God is looking for better men—one's who behold His glory and respond to the work of the Cross.
1. Jesus did not die to make good men better. He died to make dead men *alive* and to cultivate in them a consistent *burning heart* in love for Himself (Luke 24).
- F. The Father's infinite wisdom to sustain Christianity until ***"the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Hab. 2:14)*** is to *fascinate* the eyes of a generation through *beholding* the beauty of His Son Jesus.
- G. When Moses encountered God in the burning bush, he was radically changed. A "burning bush" encounter will often change a man, but a burning man can change a nation. Men often look for better methods, but mankind is God's method.
- H. Moses set His heart to behold God's glory, individually and corporately.

Exodus 33-34 — "Show me your glory!"

II. WHAT IS THE GLORY OF GOD?

- A. In Exodus 33, Moses beholds God's glory, and records who He *is*. Beyond aesthetic attributes, Moses records the revelation of God's glory as His nature and character. God's glory is His name—it's His goodness, kindness, graciousness, mercy, justice to confront sin and wickedness, zeal, etc.
- B. The single most transformative power in the Kingdom of God is when God reveals God to the human heart. Our emotional DNA changes when we come into contact with *WHO* God is and *HOW* He feels about us.

III. REMOVING THE VEIL: MESSENGERS OF GOD'S GLORY AND BEAUTY

- A. What is the primary way to disciple a young generation? To change our behavior? External reforms will never work when we were *made* to behold God and *reflect* His nature. *Right thinking* produces *right feeling*, produces *right acting*.

... for all have fallen short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus... — Romans 3:23,24

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. — John 1:14

- B. If we are stingy givers, behold the glory of God through His sacrificial heart. If we fail to serve others, behold the glory of the LORD as the servant of all. If we are living depressed, the cure is to behold the glory in His gladness. (If you behold a frowning God, you'll become a frowning child of God.)
 - 1. The Glory of God is the *primary* way of raising up disciples. Prophetic messengers are raised up by getting in contact with the glory of God.

If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow [cleave steadfastly to; conform wholly to] Me. — Matthew 16:24

- C. The transformative power of Christianity lay in following Him. In order to follow Him, we must behold Him. What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. If we behold God to be mostly frustrated, stingy, angry, disappointed, disapproving, etc. we will live mostly frustrated, stingy, angry, disappointed, etc.

...for what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as LORD... For God who commanded light to shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. — 2 Corinthians 4:5

1. The gospel is veiled to some. Those to whom it is veiled are those who are perishing. (2 Cor. 4:3,4)
2. To perish is to have a veil resting over you. To not perish is to remove that veil (2 Cor. 3:16; everlasting life, John 3:16).
3. The reason why there is a veil is because of the "god of this earth" has blinded their vision (2 Cor. 4:4)
4. Satan, "**the god of this world,**" is responsible for this blindness in concert with humanities depravity. (**Eph. 4 — "...the nations walk in futility of mind, darkened in understanding, alienated from the life of God, hardness of heart, callous, given up to impurity...**)
 - a. Satan led humanity astray in the Garden, however we did it in concert with His leadership. Unbelievers agree with Satan that God's glory has *ultimately no value* in our lives. Satan comes in concert and accusation and declares "That is true! It is undoubtedly fruitless!"
 - b. God's primary objective is be glorified. Satan's primary objective is to *mock, belittle, distort, and confound* the glory of God.
5. "**...the light of the gospel of the glory of CHRIST**" (2 Cor. 4:6). Christ is the shining beacon of the glory of God! You want to know God? Stare in the face of Jesus.
6. There is a full-scale war against the glory of God. "**...for what we proclaim is not ourselves.**"
7. Satan's objective is to make the glory of God foggy. The great war is what do you believe about Jesus? "**Who do you say that I am?**" (**Matthew 16:15**)
8. Satan's work is thwarted when God *speaks* into a darkened world. (2 Cor. 4:6)

IV. BEHOLDING GLORY & BEAUTY FOR ETERNITY

- A. The glory of God is the eternal aim of the good news of the Gospel. Salvation is the entry point. God's greatest aim is His own self-exaltation. The greatest act of love is when God seeks the greatest good for us. Our greatest good is *God Himself*.
- B. When we present the gospel it typically is "Jesus did all this for you cause He loves you!" however that is just a *means* to a greater end. The end of salvation is not "Yay! I'm saved!" but "I gain all of Christ! YOU are infinitely more valuable than anything! YOU are the good news! YOU are the gospel, Jesus!" **HE** is the treasure. Not salvation. **HE** is the treasure. Not sanctification. **HE** is the treasure. Not heaven. **HE** is our glory. **HE** is our prize.

- C. We must see the means as being a means, and the end as being the end. The end is that—after responding to the means: being bought with blood, saved, redeemed, restored, filled with the Spirit—we will stand with an unveiled face and behold the glory of God and sing of His worth, forever and ever.

- D. When we begin to behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, we *see* His face and *hear* His voice shouting back at us in response: “YES! I am all of those things. But YOU, Beloved, were the *joy set before Me!* YOU, Beloved, are *the pearl of great price!* YOU are the *treasure hidden in the field!* I sold all that I had to purchase YOU forever.”