



The Glory of Christ Part 2: The Passion

1

The Invisible God

- Exodus 33:20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." John 1:18 No one has ever seen God
- John 5:37 And the Father...his form you have never seen
- John 6:46 ...not that anyone has seen the Father
- Colossians 1:15 ...the invisible God
- 1 Timothy 1:16 ...who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see.
- 1 John 4:12 No one has ever seen God
- Despite all this, there are statements throughout Scripture that God reveals His glory to us in various ways

2

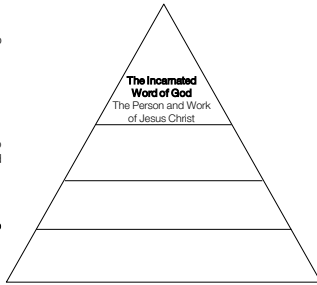
The Glory of God...what is it?

- What is "glory"?
- Glory = **beautiful** and **luminous** display, manifestation, revealing
- We relate great beauty to things that are transcendent, breathtaking, bringing an emotional, mental, and even physical amazement
- Many of us have experienced such experiences as seeing the Grand Canyon, hearing music, seeing works of art, reading poetry
- A combination of exquisite pleasure, while also causing a certain ache
- Experiencing something so beyond us...yet longing to be a part

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The Glory of God...how is it displayed?

- Matthew 11:27 ...no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
- John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, **he has made him known.**
- 2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light 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.
- Hebrews 1:1-3 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he **has spoken to us by his Son**...He is **the radiance of the glory of God** and **the exact imprint of his nature**



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The Glory of God in the Face of Christ

- **Pre-Incarnate Glory Display** - the Son has always been the one who revealed God (from creation through the whole Old Testament)
- **Incarnate Glory Display**
 - the Son of God takes on full humanity in Jesus Christ (Advent/Christmas sermons)
 - the teaching, healing, creation wielding work of Jesus Christ
 - the **Passion** of Jesus Christ - particularly focused on the last week of His life, beginning at His entry into Jerusalem, rejection, trial, betrayals, torture, crucifixion, death, and burial
 - Also known as His "humiliation"

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What Aspects of God's Glory Do We See in the Passion of Jesus Christ?

- **Caring Love** - John 3:16
- **Willingness to Give His All** - Romans 8:32
- **Humility and Obedience in Servanthood**- Philippians 2:6ff
 - **Mercy and Faithfulness** - Hebrews 2:17
 - **Participation in Suffering** - Hebrews 13:12
 - **Identification with the Outcast** - Hebrews 13:12
 - **Justice** - 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - **Mercy Towards Ignorant** - Luke 23:34
- It is no overstatement to say this view of God is unique among world religions and human philosophies

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Response

- The **clearest** and most **precise** revealing of God is found in Jesus Christ
 - This is why the NT writers continually connect everything to Jesus, not an abstracted idea of God or some attribute in and of itself
- Jesus is the **Epicenter** (i.e. the central point of something, typically a difficult or unpleasant situation) of God's Revelation of Himself
 - The difficulties and unpleasantness of a fallen world must be interpreted through the pinnacle revealing of the character of God in Jesus Christ
 - Illustration: vision is clear in center, fuzzy at edges
 - To focus on edges causes the center to be obscured
- If you want to know the heart of God, His attitude towards you, His sentiment towards others, then look to Jesus above all else
- We are chosen to be conformed to God's image as displayed in Jesus
 - This gives real meaning to phrases like "What would Jesus do?", "How would Jesus respond?"

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