

“And We Beheld His Glory”
John 1:14
(Preached at Trinity, July 27, 2016)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In **Verse 14** John declares the incarnation of Christ.
 - A. **Verse 1** declares “Jesus was” – “In the beginning was the Word” – John is declaring the deity of Christ. He has existed from everlasting to everlasting.
 - B. Now John writes, “And the Word became . . .” –
The One who was above time has entered into time.
The eternal became temporal.
The infinite became finite
The One who knows all things would grow in wisdom and stature
The self-sufficient God would hunger and thirst.
The One who is Creator of all things, the source of all life, must die
2. The eternal, unchanging God took upon Himself flesh and blood.
 1. Jesus is both God and man
 2. Jesus Christ is not the union of two persons; but the union of two natures in one person – Jesus was fully God and fully man in one person.
The Divine nature is not weakened, nor is the human nature somehow enhanced by the Divine.
3. This is the grand mystery. The humanity of Christ and the deity of Christ make up the one person. So when looking upon the person of Christ we behold the glory of God in bodily form.
Colossians 2:9 NAU - "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,"
4. Tonight I want us to explore the second half of **Verse 14**
 - I. What does it mean that “we saw His glory”

I. What does it mean that “we saw His glory”

A. The word glory is often used to refer to God’s splendor, His brightness, His magnificence, excellence, dignity, majesty

1. God’s glory is intrinsic to His being – His essential glory.

a. This is the glory that is basic to His nature

b. God’s glory is the essence of His divine being.

It is the manifestation of His Divine attributes.

2. John is saying that gazing upon Christ was gazing upon the essence of the Divine being

B. John literally says that Jesus Christ “tabernacle” among us.

I pointed out before the word for “dwelt” is σκηνώ which literally means “to tabernacle”

1. John wants us to turn our thoughts back to the wilderness wandering. God commanded Israel to construct a tabernacle with a mercy seat placed behind the veil. It represented the presence of God. Whenever they set out God went before them. The supernatural presence of His divine person was always within the camp. He led them, protected them, provided for them—yet behind the veil.

2. Outwardly the Tabernacle was a common tent; nothing but common boards and animal skins. But behind the veil was the glory of God. It was a place of unapproachable glory.

Exodus 40:34-35 NAU - " Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle."

3. I was asked if the Ark of the Covenant was found today would it have power? Would one die if they touched it? The answer is no. The Ark was the figure. Jesus Christ is the fullness.

4. Jesus Christ is the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form. To the common eye the glory of Jesus was veiled. But for us, “we beheld His glory”

5. John wants us to see here that when we gaze upon the man Jesus Christ we are gazing upon the living God.

Jesus Christ was the radiance of the glory of God upon the earth. John is reminding us that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant symbols. He is the Tabernacle.

John 1:14 NAU - "and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

C. But the fullness of His glory was shielded from us – the full manifestation of His glory was veiled.

1. This was also true in the wilderness. Israel beheld a veiled glory.

2. No man has ever beheld the full glory of God.

a. John puts it in **Verse 18**

John 1:18 NAU - "No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him."

b. God told Moses:

Exodus 33:20 NAU - "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"

c. When Jesus came in His incarnation His glory was still in a sense veiled to us. This was expressed in Christ's high priestly prayer in **John 17**

John 17:4-5 NAU - "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."

3. There were times that Jesus revealed some of His glory to His disciples and it was stunning. One example was on the Mount of Transfiguration **Matthew 17:1-2 NAU** - "Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. ² And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light."

4. But the full radiance of the glory of Christ is not revealed until after His exaltation. His radiance shines in all its glory. **Hebrews 1:3 NAU** - "And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,"

a. Paul saw the glory of Christ on the road to Damascus

Acts 9:3-4 NAU - "As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; ⁴ and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

b. Stephen saw it also

Acts 7:55-56 NAU - "But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; ⁵⁶ and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

c. The Apostle John saw it also

Revelation 1:13-16 NAU - "and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. ¹⁴ His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶ In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength."

d. And we shall see it .

1 John 3:2 NAU - "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is."

- D. Most people who looked upon Christ, however, saw nothing unusual. His glory was veiled.
- a. He simply looked like a man
Matthew 13:55-57 NAU - "Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ "And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" ⁵⁷ And they took offense at Him."
 - b. But when He returns they shall see the full radiance of His glory. They will tremble and bow before the King of kings.
Revelation 1:6-7 NAS - "to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him."
- E. While the brightness of His glory was hid from our eyes the fullness of His glory was not.
1. In what ways has the fullness of God's glory been revealed?
 2. We've seen His excellence; His moral perfections. He is perfect in every way. He kept the Law perfectly. His love has shined forth in radiant beauty.
 3. We've also seen the perfections of His sacrifice upon the Cross. His priesthood is altogether perfect.
 4. While most can only see the weakness of His humanity we can see the radiance of His deity.

Conclusion:

1. How do you look upon Christ? Is He just a religious figure? Do you see Him merely as the one from Nazareth? Or is He the living Word who has been made flesh – God in all His glory.
2. Have you beheld His glory? Do you live your life in the presence of His glory?
3. Have you trusted your life to Him, both now and eternally.