

The Glory of Christ

Introduction

1. The close of Jesus' public ministry is given a somber tone in John's epistle – **John 12:37, 41, 42-43** – though most did not believe in Him, some did as they were given a glimpse of what Isaiah saw – His glory – but they loved another glory more, and turned from Him.
 2. There is an insatiable appetite within all men – a yearning for glory.
 3. Jesus is no exception – He came to earth in pursuit of glory, but not the glory sought by the Pharisees. Jesus found glory and now lives in glory. He offers us glory too.
- I. His Glory
- A. The Glory of Deity
 - a. John's prologue to Jesus' ministry – **John 1:14** – the Word incarnate is the antitype of YHWH's glory filling the tabernacle.
 - i. **"dwelt"** – tabernacled
 - ii. **"beheld His glory"** – **"and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle." (Exodus 40:34); "the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people" (Leviticus 9:23).**
 - iii. **"as of the only begotten of the Father"** – *monogenēs* – "Or unique, only one of His kind" (NASB fn)
 1. **(v. 18)** – Father declared by the Son.
 - b. John's conclusion to Jesus' ministry – **John 12:41** – after quoting **Isaiah 6:9-10**
 - i. **"when he saw His glory"** – **"I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple." (Isaiah 6:1)**
 - ii. **"His"** – **(v. 37)** – Jesus – the glory of YHWH (**cf. 2 Corinthians 4:6** – Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ)
 - B. The Glory of Grace and Truth
 - a. **The glory of God is not such that we could anticipate or conceptualize. It is unknowable except through revelation, such that Jesus came to give.**
 - b. An exalted glory:
 - i. **John 12:37-38** – quoting **Isaiah 53:1**
 - ii. 4th Servant song in Isaiah – **Isaiah 52:13** – through His servitude of suffering.
 - iii. **John 12:23-24, 32-33** – glorified, lifted up in His service of sacrificial death.
 - c. **John 1:14** – **"full of grace and truth"** – describing that glory.

- i. When Moses requested to be shown YHWH's glory – **"the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth'" (Exodus 34:6).**
 - ii. It is a glory of holy justice and righteousness combined with compassionate mercy which serves.
 - iii. **A glory which radiates through the Person of Jesus to bless lowly and needy men.**
- II. His Glory Manifested
 - A. **"This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him." (John 2:11)**
 - a. The miracles manifest divine power, authority, and radiance of glory.
 - b. These are not shown in vanity, but as object lessons of the goal of God's glory – redeeming love.
 - B. The signs demonstrate God's glory in the face of Christ through loving acts of servitude.
 - a. Providing what is lacking, and providing something superior – **John 2:1-11** (water to wine)
 - b. Healing that is near regardless of location – **John 4:46-54** (healing nobleman's son from great distance)
 - c. Healing for those who have yearned for release for years – **John 5:1-15** (man at Bethesda pool, infirmity of 38yrs)
 - d. Bringing peace in the tempest through divine control – **John 6:15-21** (walking on sea)
 - e. Providing food sufficient in quantity for all, and more – **John 6** (feeding 5,000)
 - f. Giving sight to the blind – **John 9:1-12** (blind from birth)
 - g. Reversing death, providing life that cannot be taken away – **John 11** (raising Lazarus)
 - C. The glory manifested is a spiritual glory, a stooping glory, and a giving glory – **John 6:26-27, 33** – the miracles verify His power, position, and glory to give eternal life.
 - a. A sharing glory – **John 6:56**
 - b. Life that cannot be taken due to a glory that willingly approached danger and death to give it – **John 11:25-26**
- III. His Glory Denied
 - A. Despite His glory being undeniable, obstinate men deny it anyway – **John 9**
 - a. Despite the evidence, and witnesses:

- i. Those who knew of him – (vv. 8-9, 13)
 - ii. His parents – (vv. 18-20)
 - iii. The man himself – (vv. 21, 25, 32-33)
 - b. Despite their sight – (vv. 39-41)
 - c. They refused to give Him glory – (v. 24)
 - i. Contrast – (vv. 16, 30, 33) – evidence points logically to divine fellowship.
 - ii. **John 7:16-18** – to deny His glory is to deny the Father’s glory.
 - B. His glory was denied because of the glory they sought – **John 9:22, 34; 12:42-43**
 - a. **“for they loved the glory of men rather than the glory of God.” (12:43, LSB).**
- IV. The Glory He Sought
 - A. Jesus laments that the rulers do not give Him glory because their lives depend on it – **John 5:22-23, 39-40**
 - B. This withholding of glory from Christ by men does not alter His activity and focus. Though there is glory due Him from man, the glory He seeks is from above – **John 5:41-44**
 - a. (v. 41) – though some may give it to Him, it is not what He reaches out to take for Himself.
 - b. (v. 42) – they contrast with Jesus – this answers the question of what glory Jesus receives, and what glory they receive.
 - i. Jesus loves His Father and always seeks the glory which comes from Him – **John 7:18; 8:29, 50, 54**
 - ii. They do not love God, and therefore seek glory from men – **“for they loved the glory of men rather than the glory of God.” (12:43, LSB).**
 - c. (v. 43a) – Jesus comes only with the claim of doing the Father’s bidding – not His own, and not to please any other.
 - i. This honorable focus is not met with reception.
 - ii. (v. 43b) – they come with the claim of doing their own bidding, and with their own pedigree, and are met with great reception.
 - d. (v. 44) – their failure to give Christ glory and therefore give God glory through Him is because they do not care for God’s estimation of them.
 - C. Jesus’ focus was so overwhelmingly on glorifying His Father that the glory He sought from His Father was for the equipment to further glorify Him in return – **John 17:1-5** – perpetuating the cycle of a glory that gives through service.
- V. The Glory He Offers
 - A. **John 12:43** – what praise/glory does God offer that these rulers didn’t care for?

- B. Jesus said He gave glory to believers – **John 17:22** – it is the glory He received from the Father.
- C. It is the glory of God, a glory which stoops to serve in self-denial and humility. A glory that comes with being a part of something that transcends self and serves eternal purpose. A glory that necessitates sacrifice – **John 12:23-27**
 - a. **(vv. 23-24)** – Jesus connects His glory with His voluntary death to produce much life.
 - b. **(vv. 25-26)** – Jesus does not keep this glory for Himself, but invites others to join Him, and as His Father honors Him, He will honor them.
 - i. Such requires dying to self and to the world – i.e. it is not a glory of self-interest – **“But far be it from me to glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world hath been crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” (Galatians 6:14, ASV)**
 - ii. It is a glory of being a part of the service of God and partaking in fellowship with Him.
 - c. **(v. 27)** – Jesus’ glory was in fulfilling His purpose of coming in the flesh, which was to fulfil God’s eternal will.
- D. Such is a glory that is inglorious – **John 15:18-21** – but one that is pursued because it is estimated as greater value than the fleeting glory of men.
- E. In the end it is consummated, not in any sense that the world might crave, but in the sense that those who love God crave – Our glory in the end is being granted the privilege of basking in His glory for eternity – **John 17:24**

Conclusion

1. The glory of Christ is undeniable and must be acknowledged through the giving of glory that is due.
2. Christ not only radiates eternal glory but offers glory to those who respond to it.
3. Like Christ, our earnest desire should always be to receive glory from God.
4. This is not a glory that will be acknowledged in the world, but it is an eternal glory that surpasses anything this life has to offer.