

The Work of Christ: Week 4 - Transfiguration & The Last Supper

I. The Transfiguration: A Flash of Divine Glory

Key Scripture

- Matthew 17:1-8
- Colossians 1:19, Hebrews 1:3
- Old Testament parallel: Moses on Sinai (Exodus 34:29-35)

Main Points

- Jesus reveals His divine glory—His face shines like the sun; His clothes become dazzling white.
- Contrast with Moses: Moses reflected God's glory; Christ's glory emanates from Himself.
- Moses and Elijah's appearance represent the Law and the Prophets; Jesus fulfills all prior revelation.
- The Father's voice affirms Jesus as the beloved Son—echoing Deuteronomy 18:15.

Theological Significance

- Not receiving anything new—Jesus' glory unveiled, not imparted.
- Encouragement for disciples and for Christ of the coming glory beyond the Cross (Calvin).

Application

- Beholding Christ's glory transforms believers (2 Corinthians 3:18).
- Listen to Christ: experiencing glory now through Scripture and Spirit, anticipating future glorification.

II. The Last Supper: Christ's Passion and Institution of New Covenant

Key Scripture

- Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:26
- Reference: Exodus 12 (Passover), Isaiah 43:18-19

Main Points

- Jesus instituting the Lord's Supper as fulfillment and transformation of Passover liturgy (Sproul).
- Passover elements: universal sinfulness, substitutionary sacrifice, applied blood, faith demonstrated, divine judgment.
- Bread: From bread of affliction (Israel's Exodus) to Christ's afflicted body as spiritual sustenance.
- Cup: Four cups of Passover—Jesus transforms the third (Cup of Redemption) with "This cup is the new covenant in my blood."
- Biblical theology: Old Testament exodus foreshadows Christ's greater, spiritual deliverance.

Reformed Theology Highlights

- Covenant context: The Supper is both remembrance and ongoing means of grace.
- Already–Not Yet: Redeemed now, awaiting complete liberation at Christ's return.
- Christ institutes ongoing union and nourishment through the Supper (Calvin, Bavinck, Hodge).

Application and Self-Examination

- Scriptural mandate (1 Corinthians 11:28): Self-examination before the Table.
- Four areas of Westminster Catechism self-examination:
 - True faith in Christ
 - Knowledge and understanding of the Supper
 - Repentance and reconciled relationships
 - Love for God and others
- During the Supper: Reflect on Christ's suffering, union with Him, cleansing through His blood.

III. Practical Takeaways

- The Lord's Supper is not a mere ritual: it is a grace-filled encounter with the living Christ.
- Our worthiness rests on Christ alone, not personal piety.
- Self-examination is ongoing—confess, believe, reconcile, and receive nourishment and assurance in Christ.