



"Jesus Only"

Matthew 17:1-8, Hebrews 1:1-2a

Sunday | November 24th, 2019 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

**Matthew 17:1-8
Hebrews 1:1-3**

(See also 2 Cor. 3:7-11, Lk. 24:44-47, Rev. 19:1-9)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Michael Reeves] *"Jesus Christ, God's perfect Son, is the beloved of the Father, the Song of the angels, the Logic of creation, the great mystery of godliness, the bottomless spring of life, comfort and joy. We were made to find our satisfaction, our heart's rest, in him.*

Quite simply, this book will be about enjoying him, reveling in his all-sufficiency for us, and considering all that he is: how he reveals such an unexpectedly kind God, how he makes, defines—how he is—the good news, and how he not only gives shape to but is himself the shape of the Christian life."

*"Once upon a time a book like this would have been utterly run-of-the-mill. Among the Puritans, for example, you can scarcely find a write who did not write—or a preacher who did not preach—something called *The Unsearchable Riches of Christ*, *Christ Set Forth*, *The Glory of Christ* or the like. Yet today, what sells? What puts the smile on the bookseller's face? The book that is about the reader. People want to read about themselves."*¹

[John Piper] *"Until the gospel events of Good Friday and Easter the gospel promises of justification and eternal life lead you to behold and embrace God himself as your highest joy, you have not embraced the gospel of God. You have embraced some of his gifts. You have rejoiced over some of his rewards. You have marveled at some of his miracles. But you have not yet been awakened to why the gifts, the rewards, and the miracles have come. They have come for one great reason: that you might behold forever the*

¹ Michael Reeves, *Rejoicing In Christ* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015), p. 9.

glory of God in Christ, and by beholding become the kind of person who delights in God above all things, and by delighting display his supreme beauty and worth with ever-increasing brightness and bliss forever.”²

DISCUSS

1. Read the above quotes by Michael Reeves and discuss. What does he mean when he says, “People want to read about themselves”? How might that affect our interest in Christ?
2. The 19th century Scottish preacher, Robert Murray M’Cheyne said, “For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ.”³ What do you think he meant by that? Do you think it is good advice? Why or why not?
3. Read Matthew 17:1-8 and Hebrews 1:1-3 and discuss. How do these two passages relate? What do we learn about Jesus? What is your response?
4. Read 2 Cor. 3:7-11 and discuss. This can be a difficult passage to follow along with, but what is the Apostle Paul getting at? Why is this significant (see also Lk. 24:44-47)?
5. What are you a Christian? Or why would you consider becoming a Christian? What are some of the things that either draw or drew you to Christianity and why? How did this particular sermon affect your thinking with regards to some of those things?
6. What does it mean to “revel”?⁴ What might reveling in Christ look like in your life, particularly this Christmas season? Read Rev. 19:1-9 and discuss (as relates to reveling).
7. What immediate applications can be made in light of this sermon?

²John Piper, *God is the Gospel* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2005) p. 37, 38.

³Michael Reeves, *Rejoicing In Christ* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015), p. 11.

⁴Revel: “To enjoy oneself in a lively and noisy way... To get great pleasure from.”