

Beholding His Glory

An Advent Sermon on John 1:14

Advent 2023

Sermon Points & Notes

Week 1 - 12.17.23 | Terrell Spears

Title: Beholding His Glory: An Advent Sermon on John 1:14

Scripture: John 1:14

Main Point:

To behold the glory of God is to know Him truthfully in the mind, and treasure Him supremely in the soul, and this is now beautifully possible, only through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

John 1:14:

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

All Glory Be to Christ (An Advent Poem)

Terrell Spears

*Behold the world in darkness lay
Sin seeks to strip all colors gray
But Satan's grip now slips away
All glory be to Christ!*

*Through shadowed valleys dark and grim
Where death and demons fill the brim
Safe with our Shepherd, we feast with Him
All glory be to Christ!*

*The tension of the now and yet
Let weary hearts soon not forget
We have a Firm Foundation set
All glory be to Christ!*

*Until that day when face-to-face
Each saint empowered by His grace
His faithfulness preserves our place
All glory be to Christ!*

And the Word...

- I. Who is the Word?
 - A. The Logos...Jesus Christ
- II. Who is Jesus Christ?
 - A. He is God
 - B. The original Creator of all creation
 - C. The Light that came to pierce the darkness
 - D. The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

John 1:1-5:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Colossians 1:15-20:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Colossians 2:9:

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily...

...became flesh...

- I. The Incarnation - God took on human flesh
- II. Hypostatic Union:
 - A. Describes the unique nature of Jesus as fully God (divine) and fully Man (human) — not in two separate or two lesser natures, but the fullness of both natures combined into one.

John Gill, on the Incarnation:

Christ remained what he was, and became what he was not

...and dwelt among us...

- I. Dwelt | Greek - skēnoō
 - A. to fix one's tabernacle, have one's tabernacle, abide (or live) in a tabernacle (or tent), tabernacle ; to dwell
- II. Direct connection to the presence of God that filled the tabernacle & temple in the OT
 - A. Leviticus 26:11 - I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you.

Charles Ellicott:

The thought, then, of this Presence brings back to the writer's mind the days and weeks and months they had spent with the Word who had pitched His tent among them. He had been among the first to

follow Him, and of the last with Him. He had been of those who had seen the glory of the Transfiguration, who had entered with their Master into the chamber of death, who had been with Him in the garden of Gethsemane. His eye, more than that of any other, had pierced the veil and gazed upon the Presence within. And now the old man, looking forward to the unveiled Presence of the future, loves to think and tell of the past, that the Presence may be to others all it had been to him. He is conscious that the statement of this verse needs evidence of no common order; but this is present in the words and lives of men whose whole moral being declared it true, and the test is within the power of all. (Comp. especially 1 John 1)

...and we have seen...

- I. Seen | Greek - theaomai
 - A. to behold, look upon, view attentively, contemplate (often used of public shows); of important persons that are looked on with admiration; to view, take a view of ; in the sense of visiting, meeting with a person; to learn by looking, to see with the eyes, to perceive
- II. John's reference to the Mt. Transfiguration experience with Peter & James

2 Peter 1:16-18:

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were

eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

...His glory...

- I. They didn't just see Jesus as a man, but the God-man...the Messiah
- II. Shekinah, bright presence | light & fire & cloud - visible manifestation

John Piper, on glory:

The public display of the infinite beauty and worth of God...the radiance of his holiness, the radiance of his manifold, infinitely worthy and valuable perfections.

- III. Simeon's response in Luke 2:29-32:

Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.

...glory as of the only Son from the Father...

- I. Unique, one-of-a-kind...not just any son, but the Holy Son of God
 - A. Angel to Mary in Luke 1:35:

...therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

Ambrose:

Think not that there was ever a moment of time when God was without wisdom, any more than there was ever a time when light was without radiance. For where there is light there is radiance, and where there is radiance there is also light. For the Son is the Radiance of his Father's light, co-eternal because of eternity of power, inseparable by unity of brightness.

...full of grace and truth.

- I. Both, not just one or the other
- II. At Sinai, Moses brought the law, but Jesus is greater...

The beauty and glory of this verse is that God, the Holy King of the Universe, has come to dwell with us as man. In Jesus, we are able to see God, and that should move us to worship...but only if we see Him, the way John saw Him by beholding His glory.

APPLICATION

Questions to Consider:

What are obstacles to beholding His glory?

1. Lost and therefore blind to His glory

2 Corinthians 4:3-6:

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 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.

2. Lacking faith to believe
3. Looking at lesser glories
4. Lazy towards spiritual disciplines
 - Prayer & study of the Word

- If we are not seeking the Lord through the gifts he's given to help us see his glory, then we won't

What does it mean to behold His glory?

- To know Him truthfully in the mind, and treasure Him supremely in the soul.
- Jesus said those who worship must worship in Spirit & Truth
- Today is not so much about the *explanation* (a statement or account that makes something clear), as it is about *exultation* (a feeling of triumphant elation or jubilation)

* *The reason we can behold His glory is because of the Incarnation — Christ's came into the world so that we might see God. Advent and Christmas is about beholding the glory of Christ and treasuring Him.*

How do we see His glory?

B.E.H.O.L.D. Acronym:

B - Begin with prayer & the Word

E - Earnestly seek His help

H - Hold fast to His promises

O - Orchestrate times of praise unto God

L - Love both Christ and His People

D - Dine at the table with Jesus, your Shepherd King

Hebrews 1:1-3a :

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, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Augustine's Confessions:

What, therefore, is my God? What, I ask, but the Lord God?

"For who is Lord but the Lord himself, or who is God besides our God?" Most high, most excellent, most potent, most

omnipotent; most merciful and most just; most secret and most truly present; most beautiful and most strong; stable, yet not

supported; unchangeable, yet changing all things; never new, never old; making all things new, yet bringing old age upon the proud, and they know it not; always working, ever at rest; gathering, yet needing nothing; sustaining, pervading, and protecting; creating, nourishing, and developing; seeking, and yet possessing all things.

70 Truths to Help Us Behold His Glory:

1. He is merciful
2. He is gracious
3. He is slow to anger
4. He is abounding in steadfast love
5. He is the Word made flesh who came to dwell with us
6. He is faithful, even when we are not
7. He lived perfectly in obedience to God where we *did* not
8. He died as a sacrifice for our sins where we *could* not
9. He entered into the holy presence of God as the King of glory where we *should* not
10. He resurrected from the dead where we *would* not
11. He gives the gift of faith & grace to be saved
12. He who began His good work is faithful to complete it
13. His life, death, & resurrection provides the hope of eternal life with Him
14. In Him, we are freed from the curse of the law

15. In Him, we are reconciled back to God
16. In Him we have the forgiveness of our sins
17. He frees us from the penalty of sin
18. He frees us from the power of sin
19. He'll one day free us from the presence of sin
20. He is our light in the darkness
21. He is a very present help in times of trouble
22. He is our sympathetic High Priest
23. Empowers us with the Holy Spirit
24. Power to obey
25. Power to endure
26. Power to rest
27. Power to believe
28. Power to overcome
29. Power to hope
30. Power to love
31. He is greater than the evil of this world
32. He helps us stand firm against the works of the devil
33. He crushed the Serpent's head
34. Gives us spiritual gifts and equips us for ministry
35. Gives grace to the humble
36. Gives rest to the weary and heavy laden
37. Gives peace to the anxious and stressed
38. Gives hope to the destitute
39. Does not leave or forsake us
40. Draws near and is not distant
41. Will not break a bruised reed
42. Meets with us in His Word
43. Meets with us in prayer
44. Supplies every need according to His riches in glory
45. Strengthens us in our weakness
46. Upholds us in our fatigue

47. Watches over us as we sleep
48. Is the lifter of our head
49. Our Shepherd in whom we
have no lack
50. Provides food and restoration
for our bodies
51. Provides food and restoration
for our souls
52. Comforts us in the presence of
evil
53. Protects us in the valley of the
shadow of death
54. Secures us in His presence
forever
55. Heals our broken hearts
56. Binds up our wounds
57. Satisfies our deepest longings
58. Our refuge in times of trouble
59. A Sun and a Shield
60. Works all things together for
His people
61. Doesn't withhold good from
His people
62. Is able to do more than all we
ask or imagine
63. In Him, we can bear good fruit
64. In Him, we can abound in every
good work
65. In Him, we can have life more
abundantly
66. In Him, we suffer not in vain
67. In Him, we labor not in vain
68. In Him, we love not in vain
69. In Him, we need not fear
70. In Him, we have all things