

Theology

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The Glory/Beauty of God (03): The Glory of God/Christ in John

Opening: Psalm 119:72; 1 Peter 1:1-8; Psalm 73:24-25

1. Bible: Through the Bible, 2 Corinthians 7.
2. Reality: Hermeneutics (29): Gadamer, Heidegger, Bultmann, and Schleiermacher effectively awakened evangelicals to the fact that there is no view from nowhere. Evangelicals may claim objectivity, but they offer no explanation how they can escape their Daseins.
3. Doctrine: Loving God, the glory of God. and the spiritual life.
 - a. The nature of loving God and the spiritual life: Matt. 22:37-40; Psa 27:4; 63:2-3; 2 Cor. 3:18; John 3:16; 1 Pet 3:18; Gal. 2:20; Rom 5:6-8; Jn 15:11-15; 1 Jn 3:1, 14-18; 4:7-12; Matt. 5:43-48; 1 Jn 5:1-3; 1 Cor 10:31; Rom 14:7-8.

b. The glory and darkness in John, John 1:1-5, 14.

(1) The eternal glory of Christ, Jn 1:1

(2) The darkness (Jn 1:5) of misotheism.

a. The nature and rise of misotheism.

b. Absolute misotheism (Algernon Swinburne, Thomas Paine).

c. Agonistic misotheism (Job's wife, Antonio Salieri, Rebecca West, Elie Wiesel, Mark Twain).

- d. How God and the eternal perspective are the only solutions to the problems of evil.
- e. How Christians alone have the resources to handle the problem of evil.
- f. Lessons to learn from the dangers of misotheism (development of bad affections or sentiments toward God).
 - 1) The need to seek God as the greatest good.
 - 2) The need to live in the eternal perspective.
 - 3) The need to understand the true nature of God.

4. 1st strand of divine glory in John: Christ's six glory signposts to new creation.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- a. #1: John 2:11. *The Word became flesh, and turned water into wine in celebration of a wedding, and we beheld His glory, glory as one who takes the ordinary and transformed it into the extraordinary.*
- b. #2: John 4:46-54. *The Word became flesh, and healed the sick, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the sovereign giver of life.*
- c. #3: John 5:2-11. *The Word became flesh, and healed a paralytic, and we beheld His glory, glory as the healer of the lame.*

- d. #4: John 6:11-14. *The Word became flesh, and miraculously fed 5,000 people, and we beheld His glory as the sustainer of life.*
- e. #5: John 9:1-11. *The Word became flesh, and gave sight to the blind, and we beheld His glory as the giver of sight.*
- f. #6: John 11:43-48. *The Word became flesh, and restored life to the dead, and we beheld His glory as the giver of life.*

5. 2nd strand of divine glory, the apex of revelation of divine glory: Crucified love. This is Christ's 7th sign: the *moment* when the glory of God, His love, is supremely revealed (John 3:14-16; 12:23-32; Rom 5:6-8; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 Jn 4:10, 16; Rom. 8:38-39; 1 Jn 3:16). All other signs lead up to this "lifting up," the "exaltation" of the glory of God, namely the supreme revelation of God's love. *The Word became flesh, and was crucified and judged for man's sins, and we beheld His glory, glory as the God of sacrificial love.*

6. 3rd strand of divine glory revealed: Immanuel. The glory of Christ's Body/Tabernacle, John 1:14; 2:13-22. *The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as the God who comes to us in a human being.*