

## The Glory of God-21

**Opening:** John 8:31-32; 2 Tim 3:1-4; Psa 73:24-26; 1 Cor. 1:30.

1. **Bible reading:** Romans 5:1-11, the results of justification.
2. **The Spiritual life: life with God by 2<sup>nd</sup> person proper knowledge and by proper love—how Christ transforms our lives and sufferings,** Matt. 22:37-40; Rom 3:10-25, 5:8, 5; 2 Cor 5:14-15; Mark 8:34; Gal 5:24; Gal. 1:3-5; 2:19-21; Gal. 3:27-28; 2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 2:13; 3:1-4; Acts 9:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:26; 2 Cor 1:5; 1 Pet 4:13; Col. 1:24; Matt 25:34-40.
3. **Foundations (Reality, WT, TT): History of Natural Law tradition (17).**
  - a. Natural law is objective, universal, unchanging, and intelligible (rational).
  - b. The vast implications of natural law in politics and biblical interpretation
  - c. Bottom up natural law/morality: the grounding of natural law in natural reason's reflection on nature (Pre-Socratics, Aristotle, Stoics).
  - d. Top down natural law/morality: the revelation of natural law in supernatural revelation (Mosaic Law, Proverbs, Matt. 7:12; 22:39; Rom 1:26-27; 2:12-16).
4. **Advanced Bible doctrine: The glory of God (21—the glory of the Incarnation, ὁ λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο' (Jn 1:14).**

## The Glory of God

1. The glory of God in creation and Christ.
  - a. In creation (Rom 1:18-20; Psalm 19).
  - b. The glory of Christ in the synoptics (Lk 9:32; Mark 13:26; 10:37; Matt. 25:31).
  - c. The glory of Christ in John (1:14; 12:20-28; 13:30-32; 17:1).
  
2. The glory of Christ in the Incarnation was in the Word becoming *sarx* (fallen flesh), not just *soma* (a body).

**Romans 8:3** For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh,

3. More than any other passage, John 1:14 (the Word became flesh) is the foundation stone for the historical development of Christology for 2,000 years. To grasp this is to grasp unspeakable riches.

4. Grasping the distinction between God's transcendence and immanence and how it relates to the incarnation. The eternal Son of God, who is equal to the Father, entered time and history and came to exist as man without ceasing to be truly God. He who is wholly transcendent as God is the same one who is wholly immanent as man, and He is wholly immanent as man without losing His wholly transcendent otherness as God. And it is the Jesus, the eternal Son of God existing as man, who died to free us from sin and death and who rose that we might have everlasting life. The incarnation is the greatest mystery and source of blessing of the universe

5. The three absolute essentials of the Incarnation:

- a. It is *truly God the Son* who is man—emphasizing His full deity.
- b. It is *truly man* that the Son of God is—emphasizing His full and complete humanity.
- c. The Son of God *truly is* man—emphasizing the union.

6. Historical overview of Christology on “the Word **BECAME** flesh/sarx.”
  - a. Ignatius (d. 170) defended the Incarnation against the Docetism.
  - b. Justin Martyr the apologist (d. 165) defended the transcendence of the Logos.
  - c. Rejection of dynamic Monarchianism (Adoptionism)
  - d. Rejection of modalistic Monarchianism.
  - e. Tertullian (160-220) defended Incarnation against the “caterpillar view.”
  - f. Origen (185-254) was the first to teach the eternal begetting of the Son.
  - g. Arian (d. 336) heresy: If the Word became flesh, then it could not have been God.
  - h. The Council of Nicaea (325): Affirmation of eternal begetting; homoousios.
  - i. Athanasius: The “Word became man; it did not merely come into a man.”
  - j. Apollinarian heresy: The Word took the place of the human soul to be united to flesh.
  - k. Cappadocian Fathers: Condemned Apollinarianism as a form of Docetism.
  - l. Nestorian heresy: Jesus was 2 persons with 2 distinct natures.
  - m. Cyril (375-444) develops how the Son of God became man.
  - n. Council of Chalcedon (451): Official creed of Christianity’s doctrine of hypostatic union.
  - o. Anselm of Canterbury explains the need for Incarnation in *Cur Deus Homo*.
  - p. Thomistic Christology: *Actus Purus/Esse*, and *esse personale* in the Incarnation.
  - q. Kenotic Christology (Martin Luther): God empties Self of divine omniscience.
  - r. Enlightenment heresy: division between the historical Jesus and the Christ of faith.
  - s. Process Christology heresy: no longer ask the question of how God can become man.
  - t. Contemporary Catholic Christology: heresies of God being affected by history.
  - u. Contemporary Protestant Christology: heresies of personalism, nominalism, passibilism, mutability, temporality, rejection of classical theism.

## 7. The Son of God, as man, simultaneously performed four actions on the Cross.

- a. He assumed our condemnation, Rom 8:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal 4:4; Mat. 27:46; Heb. 2:8-9.
- b. He offered Himself as an atoning sacrifice to the Father on our behalf, Rom 3:24-25; 5:6, 8-10, 18-20; 14:9, 15; 1 Cor 5:7; 6:20; 7:23; 8:11; 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:14-19; Gal 2:20-21; 1 Thess. 5:10; 1 Pet 1:18-19; 3:18; Mat. 20:28; John 3:16; rom 4:25; 5:10-11; 8:32; Gal. 1:4; 2:20; Eph 5:2, 25; Titus 2:14; Col 1:14, 19-20; Acts 20:28; Rev. 1:5; 5:9; Heb 10:5-10.
- c. He put to death our sinful humanity, Rom 6:6; Col. 2:11; 2 Tim 2:11; 2 Cor 5:14.
- d. He pleased God the Father in offering Himself up, Jn 15:13; Eph 5:2; 1 Jn 3:16; Jn 3:35; 5:20; 8:29; 10:17.

8. The gospel of Christ is glorious in every way precisely because God is impassible, immutable, simple, and loving. The Cross is a demonstration of God the Father's love, not anger, Jn 3:16; Rom 5:10; 8:32; 1 Jn 4:10; Eph 2:4.
9. John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacle among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
  - a. Christ's glory revealed in the 6 signs that point to the coming new creation (water to wine, healing sick, healing lame, feeding 5,000, giving sight to the blind, and raising the dead)
  - b. Christ's glory revealed on the Cross, John 3:14-16; 12:23-24, 32;
  - c. Christ's glory revealed in the incarnation as God's new tabernacle, John 1:14.