

“Behold His Glory”
John 1:15-18

Introduction:

1. Please Turn Back In Your Bibles With Me:
 - To The First Chapter Of The Gospel Of John:
 - Where - This Morning:
 - We Will Finish Up With:
 - John’s Own Introduction - And Prologue:
 - To His Book:
 - Which Is From 1:1-18!
 - And - Where We Left Things:
 - Last Week - Was In 1:14 - Where John Tells Us:
 - That When - “The Word Became Flesh, And Dwelt Among Us”:
 - “We Beheld His Glory!”
2. In Other Words:
 - John, The *Writer* Of This Book:
 - Who Is Also Known As:
 - “John The Beloved” - Was An Eyewitness:
 - Of The Glory Of Jesus Christ!
 - But - He Was Not The Only One!
 - There Were Others!
 - He Says:
 - “*We* Beheld His Glory!”
 - Of Course - This Would Apply To:
 - The Other Disciples & Apostles Of Christ!
 - But - It Would Also Apply To:
 - The Other John We Are Introduced To In This Chapter:
 - John The Baptist!
 - He Too Was An Eyewitness:
 - Of The Glory Of Jesus Christ!
 - And So - John The Beloved:
 - Brings In John The Baptist - Once Again:
 - To Confirm His Own Testimony:
 - In 1:15 - Because Even - “*John* bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me!”
 - So - *Both Johns* Are Pointing Us To:
 - Jesus - So That *We* Too:
 - Can Behold His Glory:
 - As Well!
 - **IE:** From Time To Time - On A Clear, Dark, Night - I Like To Look Into The Sky - To Gaze At The Speckles Of Light That Are Shining Down On Us! Of Course - Most Of Those Lights Are Stars - But Some Of Them Are Planets! So - I Get Out My Handy-Dandy Star-Gazer App On My Phone - To Help Me Know Which Is Which! Sometimes - I’ll Even Try To Point Some Of Them Out To Others! Look At Where Jupiter & Saturn & Venus Is! Look At Their Light! Look At Their Location! Look At Their Glory!
 - But - Without My App Or Without A Guide - You Would Have A Hard Time Telling One Celestial Object From Another! Because - They All Look About The Same!
3. Well - The Same Thing Was True When Jesus Came Into This World!
 - When “The Word Became Flesh, And Dwelt Among Us!”
 - If You Would Have Seen Him - From A Distance:
 - There Wouldn’t Have Been That Much Different About Him - Physically:
 - Than Any Other Baby Or Child Or Adolescent Or Young Adult!
 - Nothing To Really Set Him Apart!
 - Even As The Prophet Isaiah Described Him:
 - In Isaiah 53:2 - About When He Would Come:
 - “He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him!”
 - But - There *Was* & There *Is* Something Different About Him!

- Something Unique And Special!
 - He Possessed A Glory:
 - That No Other Man Ever Did Or Ever Could Possess!
 - It Was “The Glory As Of The Only Begotten Of The Father!” (1:14)
- And - For His Glory To Stand Out:
 - You Would Have To Have:
 - Been With Him & Close To Him!
 - To See His Works - And:
 - To Hear His Words!
- 4. Well - Both John The Beloved & John The Baptist:
 - Were There To Do Just That!
 - And So - Like An App Or Sky Map:
 - They Want You To See Jesus:
 - The Way They Saw Jesus!
 - They Want You To Hear Jesus:
 - The Way They Heard Jesus!
 - They Want You To:
 - “Behold His Glory!”
 - The Way They:
 - “Beheld His Glory!”
 - And So - Beginning In 1:15:
 - They Point Us To:
- 1. ***The Glory Of Christ’s Own Person!***
 - Again - Through The Testimony Of John The Baptist:
 - 1:15 - “John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me!”
 - Both Johns Want You To:
 - Gaze Upon The Glory:
 - Of Christ’s Infinite Greatness!
 - Which - Is First Seen:
 - In An Unexpected Way!
 - His Glory Is Seen:
 - According To John’s Testimony:
 - Through His Presence:
 - *In* The World!
 - John The Baptist Knew That:
 - There Would Be Someone Who Would:
 - “Come After Him!”
 - After All - He Knew:
 - That His Own Role In God’s Redemptive Plan:
 - Was That Of:
 - A Forerunner!
 - He Was The Messenger Who:
 - Would Cry In The Wilderness:
 - “Prepare Ye The Way Of The Lord, Make Straight Hin The Desert A Highway For Our God!” (Isaiah 40:3)
 - And - When The “Word Became Flesh!” (1:14)
 - When Jesus *Did* Come Into This World:
 - He Indeed Came “*After*” John The Baptist!
 - According To The Gospel Of Luke:
 - Jesus Was Born After John!
 - By About Six Months!
 - And Then - According To All Of The Gospels:
 - Jesus Was Baptized By John:
 - So That Even His Ministry:
 - Came *After* John’s Ministry!
 - But - The *Timing* Of Jesus’ Coming:

- Didn't Matter All That Much To John!
 - Because - The *Truth* Of Jesus' Coming:
 - Mattered More!
- The Living, Creating, Revealing:
 - Word Of God:
 - Came To Us - And Was:
 - "Made Flesh, And Dwelt Among Us!" (1:14)
- And Just His Presence:
 - In This World:
 - Reveals His Glory!
 - But Even More - His Personal Glory Is Seen:
- Through His Priority:
 - *Over* The World!
 - And - Even Over John Himself!
 - Because - Even Though He Came After John - He Was:
 - "Preferred Before Me" - John Says - "For He Was Before Me!"
 - This Last Phrase In 1:15 Can Also Be Translated:
 - "He Was **First** To Me!"
 - And - "First" - In Every Way:
 - Compared With John & With The World!
 - John's Testimony Was That:
 - Jesus Christ Was "First" In:
 - Character!
 - Rank! And Even:
 - Time!
- So - John Pointed To Jesus:
 - So That He Might Take Over:
 - The "Center Stage" In The Story Of Redemption:
 - And So That:
 - You Might "Behold His Glory" Even As He Did!
 - When It Comes To The Glory Of Jesus Christ:
 - There Is No One & Nothing To Compare Him To!
 - And - You Must Not Disregard:
 - The Glory Of His Person!
 - Get To Know Him Better:
 - Through This Gospel & Through The Pages Of This Book! (Bible)
 - Behold The Glory:
 - Of Christ's Person!
 - And Then - Point Him Out To Others:
 - As Someone Once Did For You!

* But Then - In 1:16-18 - John The Beloved - The Writer Of This Gospel - Picks Up Where John The Baptist Left Off! And - He Wants You To Also:

2. ***Behold The Glory Of Christ's Own Provision!***

- Which Is What We Find Next In:
 - 1:16 - "And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace!"
 - John Also Wants You To:
 - Gaze Upon The Glory:
 - Of Christ's Infinite Grace!
 - And You Can:
- Through His Divine Fulness!
 - Here - John Points Us Back To:
 - 1:14 Again - When He Said That The Word:
 - Was "Full Of Grace And Truth!"
 - As God - He Is "Full" Of So Much More As Well!
 - But - It Is:
 - "**Of** - Or - **From** - His Fulness Have All We Received!"
 - In Other Words:

- You Can Behold Christ's Glory:
 - In How He Has Blessed You & Provided For You!
- The "Fulness" Of Jesus Christ:
 - Is Infinite!
 - He Is The Vast Treasury:
 - Of All You Will Ever Need!
 - In Colossians 2:3 - We Are Told That:
 - Jesus Christ Is The One:
 - "In Whom Are Hid All The Treasures Of Wisdom And Knowledge!"
 - And - According To Acts 17:28:
 - It Is Through Jesus Christ That:
 - "We Live, And Move, And Have Our Being!"
- You Too Have Received:
 - "Of" The "Fulness" Of Jesus Christ!
 - In So Many Ways!
 - And Through His Provision:
 - You See His Glory!
 - But - You Also See The Glory Of Christ:
- Through His Divine Favor!
 - 1:16b - "And Grace For Grace!"
 - Or - "Grace Upon Grace!"
 - So - Not Only Is His Grace To You:
 - Infinite - At The Same Time:
 - It Is - Inexhaustible!
 - **IE:** I Think A Good Way To Picture This Phrase - Is To Look At The Grace Of Christ As An Iceberg! And The "Grace" You See & Experience In Your Daily Life - Is Just The Tip! But - Not For Your Ruin - But For Your Blessing! And So:
 - As Great As the Grace Is That You Receive Today:
 - The Grace Behind That Grace:
 - And The Grace Underneath That Grace:
 - Is Greater Still!
 - Its Not Just A "Piling Up Of Grace!"
 - Because - We Are Still Told In:
 - Hebrews 4:16 - To "Come Boldly Unto The Throne Of Grace" - And - "Find Grace To Help In Time Of Need!"
 - But - In Christ - There Is:
 - An Infinite Storehouse:
 - Of Grace - That Is:
 - Infinitely Supplied:
 - To & For You!
 - So - If It Ever Seems Like:
 - The Favor & Grace Of Christ:
 - Is Fading Or Melting Away - From The Heat Of Your Day:
 - Know This - That Just Beneath The Surface Of Those Stormy Waves Of Your Circumstances & The Dark Waters Of This World:
 - The Storehouse Of His Grace Remains & Will Be Supplied In Due Time!
 - **IE:** Over The Last Couple Of Years - All Of Us Have Received "Stimulus" Payments - Sadly - Only A Few Voices Have Asked - "Where's All This Money Coming From?" That's A Good Question - Especially When You Realize That The National Debt Is Over \$30 Trillion - That's \$90K Per Person! And Yet - All Of You Received A Check Or A Deposit! What You Received From The Government - In One Sense - Came From Someone Who Has Nothing!
 - But - When You Need Grace - You Can Go To The One Who Has Everything!
 - And Receive Even More:
 - "Of / From His Fulness!"
- This Is The Glory Of Christ's Provision!
 - But You Must Not Despise The Fulness Of His Favor!

- His Grace!
 - As Paul Asks Us In Romans 2:4:
 - “Despise thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”
- Far Too Many Rely On:
 - The Government:
 - Even Though:
 - Its Treasury Is Empty!
- So - Why Don't We Rely On:
 - The Lord:
 - Since We Know:
 - His Treasury Is Full?
 - So - Go To Him - For His Grace! And Then:
 - Grow In His Grace!
- What You Really Need:
 - The Government Doesn't Have!
 - But - Christ Does!
- Behold The Glory Of Christ's Provision!
 - But Even More - John Points You To:

3. ***Behold The Glory Of Christ's Own Preeminence!***

- His Preeminence Over Everything & Everyone!
 - 1:17 - “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ!”
 - John Wants You To:
 - Gaze Upon The Glory:
 - Of Christ's Infinite Goodness!
 - Because He Is Preeminent / Supreme / Superior - Even:
- Over The Law!
 - The Law Of God:
 - That Is Revealed To Us:
 - In The Old Testament!
 - Now - According To Romans 7:12:
 - The Law Of God Is:
 - “Holy, And the Commandment Holy, And Just, And Good!”
 - So - There Is:
 - Goodness & Truth:
 - To Be Found In:
 - God's Law!
 - Because - It Was “Given” To Us:
 - By God Himself!
 - “Given” *By* God - *Through* Moses!
 - But - Jesus Christ Is Greater:
 - Than His Own Law!
 - In Jesus Christ:
 - “Grace And Truth *Came!*”
 - In Old Testament Times:
 - There Were Glimpses Of:
 - God's Grace And Truth!
 - But - In Jesus Christ:
 - They Came In:
 - All Their Glory! His Glory!
 - Grace & Truth Came To You:
 - When Jesus Was Born - In Humility!
 - When Jesus Lived - In Service!
 - When Jesus Died - As A Sacrifice!
 - When Jesus Rose Again - In Victory!
 - Behold The Glory:
 - Of His Grace & Truth!

- And Believe In Him:
 - And You Will Receive His Grace & Truth!
- Because - He Is Also Preeminent:
 - Over The Lawgiver!
 - Moses Himself!
 - According To Deuteronomy 33:1:
 - Moses Was A “Man Of God!”
 - So - He Was A Good Man & A Godly Man!
 - But - He Was Still Just A Man!
 - But - Jesus Christ Is Greater:
 - Than His Own Lawgiver! Because:
 - Moses Was Just A Servant Of God!
 - Jesus Is The Son Of God!
 - In Hebrews 2 - We Are Told That:
 - 2:3 - This [man] was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house!”
 - Why? Because Even Though:
 - 2:5-6 - “Moses verily [was] faithful in all his house, as a servant!”
 - “But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end!”
 - This Is The Glory Of Jesus Christ!
 - He Is Preeminent Over Every One & Every Thing!
 - So - Do Not Let Yourself Become:
 - Distracted:
 - From The ***Glory*** Of Christ In Your Life! His Preeminence!
 - Even By Those Things May Be Good & Necessary!
 - Like Mary - In Luke 10:42:
 - Who Sat At The Feet Of Jesus:
 - While Her Sister, Martha:
 - “Was Cumbered About Much Serving!”
 - Mary Chose “That Good Part” - Jesus Said!
 - Mary Chose:
 - The One Thing That Was Needful To Her - In That Place & At That Time!
 - She Would Not Be Distracted:
 - From The Preeminence Of Christ:
 - In Her Life!
 - You See - Both The Law & The Lawgiver:
 - Where Just Shadows Cast By:
 - The Glory Of Christ!
 - But - The Person Is So Much Greater Than His Shadow!
 - **IE:** I Remember - In College - Sitting In A Study Lounge - Probably Reading & Studying History - When A Good Friend Of Mine (Ukrainian) - Rushed In - And Said - “He’s Coming! He’s Coming!” Who? “Georgi Vins” - A Faithful Pastor During The Former Soviet Union! When He Was Finally Escorted Through The Door - Why Would I Keep Reading About History, When I Could Meet History - In The Flesh! And So I Did!
 - Don’t Be Distracted:
 - By The “Shadows” Of Those “Good Things” That Have Come:
 - In Our Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Behold His Glory!
 - But Also:

4. ***Behold The Glory Of Christ’s Own Purpose!***

- Which Was To:
 - Declare & Reveal The Father To Us!
 - And We Find This In The Last Verse:
 - Of John’s Prologue - In 1:18:
 - “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared [him]!”

- Here - John Wants You To:
 - Gaze Upon The Glory:
 - Of Christ's Infinite Goal! Why?
- Because Of Our Need!
 - A Need Expressed In The First Part Of 1:18:
 - "No Man Hath Seen God At Any Time!"
 - After All - As We Are Told In:
 - John 4:24 - "God Is A Spirit!"
 - And So - The Times When:
 - God *Did* Reveal Himself To Man:
 - In The Old Testament:
 - He Did So In A Limited & Diminished Fashion!
 - Even To Moses - The "Man Of God" Himself:
 - When - In Exodus 33:18 - He Asked The Lord:
 - "I beseech thee, shew me thy glory!"
 - The Lord Replied:
 - "I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy!"
 - But - "Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live!"
 - In Order For You:
 - To Know God!
 - To Hear God! And Even:
 - To See God!
 - He Needs To Be Revealed To You!
 - And This Is What Jesus Christ:
 - Came To Do:
 - For You! And He Could!
- Because Of His Nature!
 - Because He Is:
 - "The Only Begotten Son!"
 - Some Translations Call Him:
 - "The Only Begotten God!"
 - Which Would Bring Out His True Deity:
 - Even More!
 - Jesus Christ Knows The Father!
 - He Knows *His* Father Perfectly & Intimately!
 - And That's Why He Can:
 - Reveal & "Declare" Him To Us!
- Because Of His Nearness:
 - To God The Father!
 - He Is & Has Always Been:
 - "In The Bosom Of The Father!"
 - That Means - In The Nearest & Closest Relationship To Him:
 - **IE**: Even As A Father Would Embrace His Son Or Daughter In His Arms!
- And So - 1:18 - "He (Jesus) Hath Declared Him (The Father)!"
 - Since Jesus Christ:
 - "**Is** The Image Of The Invisible God!"
 - He Explains & Expounds To Us:
 - Who God The Father Is!
 - And - How He Can Become:
 - Your Father & My Father!
 - And This Is The Glory Of Jesus Christ!
 - His Purpose Is To Bring With Him:
 - "Many Sons To Glory!"
 - To The Glory Of His Own Father!

Conclusion:

1. Have You Gotten A Glimpse This Morning:
 - Of The Glory Of Christ? The Glory Of:
 - His Person!
 - His Provision!
 - His Preeminence! And:
 - His Purpose!
 - If So - Don't:
 - Get Distracted From His Goodness!
 - Let The Light Of His Glory:
 - Shine Upon Your Heart:
 - So That His Light Will Be The Spark Of Your Life!
2. And Then - Share Your Own Testimony:
 - About Him - Even As John The Baptist Did!
 - Back In 1:15 - It Says That:
 - "John Bare Witness Of Him, And Cried, Saying, This Was He Of Whom I Spake!"
 - When You Behold The Glory Of Christ:
 - Tell Others About Him:
 - With Clarity!
 - "Bare Witness Of Him!"
 - Even As John Did!
 - Talk About His Life, His Light, And His Love With Others!
 - There's A Lot Of Other Things:
 - To Talk About - But - Only One Thing:
 - That Makes An Eternal Difference In People's Lives!
 - When You Behold The Glory Of Christ:
 - Tell Others About Him:
 - With Conviction!
 - Lift Up & Speak Up With Your Voice!
 - Even As John Did - When:
 - He Lifted Up His Voice And "Cried!"
 - His Goal Was To:
 - Persuade & Convince People Of The Truth:
 - About Christ - And Bring Them:
 - To The Point Of Conversion To Christ! Also:
 - When You Behold The Glory Of Christ:
 - Tell Others About Him:
 - With Consistency!
 - Even As John The Baptist Did:
 - When He Said - "This Was He Of Whom I Spake!"
 - The Testimony & The Message Of John:
 - Never Changed!
 - It Was Consistent:
 - Because It Was True!
 - 3. This Is What Can & Will Happen:
 - When You Truly Get:
 - A Glimpse Of The Glory Of Christ!
 - Behold His Glory!

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