

43-01-03-The Glory of Our King

Incarnation, glory, grace, truth, exaltation

John 1:14b

Christ's *divine glory* corrects all *false opinions* about God.

INTRODUCTION: (Scripture Reading: John 1:14-18, 29-34)

—We learned in John 1:14a that *The Incarnation makes cross-cultural outreach our mandate*. Here's the rest, v.14b: "*We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*"

—The word "*glory*" [doxa=*opinion*, from "*to think*"] is in our words *doxology* and *orthodox*. *Orthodox* means "*right opinion*" or "*straight thinking.*"

A *right opinion* of God leads us to *praise Him* [Doxology].

—In our *fallen* human condition, *sin* distorts *right thinking*. [Title because] Jesus revealed the "*glory*" or *right opinion* of God. **HOM.idea**. But John expounds v.14 in reverse order, to show us *first that Christ's glory*...

I. Corrects a Wrong View of Merit— (*full of grace and truth*) - v.17, For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

A. Law-keeping can lead to false trust in merit— Luke 18:11-12 [Jesus said a Pharisee] "stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'"

B. OT Law has truth with no saving "grace"— Rom 3:23, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Because Jesus came "*full of grace and truth,*" He was generous with it...)

C. John said in v.16, From the fullness of his **grace** we have all received **one blessing after another** [lit. "*grace in place of grace*"] (God wanted to bless us as He taught in Deut 28:2 (ESV), And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. But failure to obey cancels all human merit.)

TRANS: Jesus warns in John 5:39-40, You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. *Our King's glory* is "*full of grace and truth,*" saving us, as Tit 3:5a says, "not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." Next Christ's glory...

II. Corrects a Wrong View of God— "*the glory of the One and Only, who*

came from the Father"

A. People may slander God when bad things happen in life.

1. But in a *fallen* world, any decision He makes involves *suffering*.

2. But we know God always makes the most loving choice? *How?*

B. In Jesus was "*the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father.*"

1. He brought the right opinion [doxa]— v.18, No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has **made him known**.

2. Jesus, coming straight from God's heart, says in John 17:22 that He shares His Father's "glory" with us: "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one.

TRANS: Christian unity is Trinitarian unity, brought to us by "*the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father.*" But it's a process— 2 Cor 3:18, And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. **Christ's glory** gives us a new experience of God. And finally it...

III. Corrects a Wrong View of Jesus Himself— "*We have seen his glory*" - v.29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

A. John was a cousin of Jesus, but after seeing "*his glory,*" John knew Jesus was *the Messiah*— v.33, "I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'"

B. At Pentecost, Jesus *baptized* His Church "with the Holy Spirit." This isn't just a bit of history— Eph 5:18 [tells us] "be filled with the Spirit," not "drunk with wine" or otherwise distracted from *Kingdom living*.)

C. In "his glory," Jesus "takes away the sin of the world" and "baptize[s] with the Holy Spirit." (The *Cross* saves us; *Spirit-filling* sanctifies us—we need both, and "*his glory*" gives us both.)

CONCLUSION:

—**Christ's divine glory corrects all false opinions about God.** John's explanation of "his glory" tells us to let go of merit-seeking to grasp "the fullness of his grace"; to let go of opinions unworthy of the Father as Jesus reveals Him; and to let go of any view of Jesus less than that of our Savior from sin and our Baptizer in the Holy Spirit. Jesus came to bring the *right opinion [doxa]* on everything divine "*his glory*" with us and manifest it in us as it was manifested in Him.

John 1:14-18 (NIV)

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”

¹⁶ From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.

John 1:29-34 (NIV)

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’

³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”

³² Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.

³³ I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’

³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.”