

## John 1:14-18 The Glory of the Son

In John 17:20-26 Jesus prays: **“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”**

This morning, I must say with the utmost seriousness, with the greatest of urgency, that the most important reality in the history of the universe is that you and I behold the glory of the Son of God. Therefore, there is nothing more important for us to hear and understand than the message of vv. 14-18. (V. 14 may be the richest theological statement in the entire Bible.) Listen to the Words of God written by the Apostle John: **“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. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.”** With this in mind, I want to approach this text from the concept of GLORY. What is glory?

What is glory? It is a big word and it is used so often. Some of you may immediately think of heaven. After all, heaven is the place of glory. If you remember the song *Lily of the Valley* you may recall the words *"sweeping up to glory where we will see his blessed face."* You may think of the glory of God as a standard, or measuring stick when you consider the verse: **"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"** (Rom. 3:23). You may think of glory as something great, or grand. I remember my grandmother saying, *"Glory be to my soul."* She would say these words when something great or spectacular or unusual would happen. Think about fireworks. They aren't spectacular until you light them and then you say, *"Wow! How powerful! How beautiful!"* Think about the sun. It's glory is displayed in the rays of light and warmth as they come to us. It is the same with the glory of God. We see and understand the glory of God by what He does. Well, in our text today, what God has done is send HIS Son. And in doing this, the Son reveals the Father to us. And as we've seen, the glory attributed to Jesus is the SAME glory as God himself. I have 2 truths today and more for next week on this passage: 1) Observed glory; and 2) Full glory.

1. Observed Glory. I get this from v. 14 as John says, “we have seen his glory.” Here, John is not speaking about the entire world. He is speaking of himself and those who were with him. In every way possible as a man, John the Apostle saw the glory of the Son in the person of Jesus Christ. Now, to the extent that John saw his glory, he saw it through what He had seen and observed. In 1 John 1:1-2 John says, “**That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us.**” In the first chapter of his book, John wants everyone to know this truth. John the Baptist sees him coming toward him and says, “**Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world**” (1:29, 36). He also saw the Spirit of God come from heaven (like a dove) and rest upon him (v. 32). We also see that two of John the Baptist’s disciples began to walk after him and Jesus says to them, “**Come and see**” where I live. In v. 47 Jesus invites Nathanael to follow him. And what will he see? Jesus says, “*Truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of man.*”

When we read the gospels, we find many who saw his glory with their own eyes. In what ways? They saw his glory as the ONLY man who ever said to a person, “***I forgive your sins***” (Matt. 9:2). They saw his glory as he “***healed the man born blind***” (John 9:32). John and the disciples saw his glory as he commanded the ***winds and the waves to be still*** (Mark 4). They saw his glory as the ***demons obeyed*** his word to come out of people (Luke 4:36). They saw his glory as he ***confronted the religious leaders*** as NO ONE had ever done, as ONE with the authority of God (Matt. 7:29). They saw his glory as he turned the ***water into wine*** (John 2). They saw his glory as he ***raised Lazarus from the dead*** (John 11). They saw his glory as he walked on the sea (Matt. 14). In a very particular, physical way, Peter, James, and John saw his glory on the Mount of Transfiguration as he spoke with God, Moses, and Elijah. Also on that mountain God said to them, “**This is my beloved Son, listen to him**” (Mark 9:7). I believe the Centurion who stood beside the cross beheld his glory as he cried out “**Father into your hands I commit my spirit.**” The thief on the cross beside him beheld his glory as he looked to the Son of God, who alone could assure him his sins were forgiven and “**today you will be with me in paradise**” (Luke 22:43). Mary and other ladies saw his glory when they went to the empty tomb. The disciples on the Road to Emmaus saw his glory when he broke with them later in the evening (Luke 24).

Brothers and sisters, His glory was observed! And if we want to continue this conversation, it will never conclude. We will NEVER exhaust his glory . . . “**Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written**” (John 21:25).

Let me conclude this truth by saying that today, we do not behold his glory by sight as John did. But, we have the Word of God written. And, because of the time in which we live, God has sent the Holy Spirit to take the things (true words of history) I just spoke of and apply them to our hearts and minds. “**Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of Christ**” (Rom. 10:17).

And this happens in such a way that we also, by faith, behold the glory of the Son. And, the effects of his glory are SO evident in our lives. Jesus says, **“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed”** (John 20:29). Let’s move on!

2. Full Glory. Look at the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of v. 14: **“glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”** By saying “glory as of the ONLY Son from the Father, FULL of grace and truth,” he is saying that the glory Jesus possesses (and reveals) is the SAME glory reserved for the Father. We’ve already seen this truth in v. 1 as Jesus is called the “Word” who was “with” God, and the “Word” “was” God. Of the same we read in v. 3: **“All things were made through him . . .”** And in v. 4: **“In him was life.”** In vv. 4-5 he is **“light,”** light that cannot be extinguished. In these ways and so much more, the glory of the Son is FULL, just as the Father is FULL. There is no “life,” there is no “light” if it does not come from the Son, as it comes from the Father. And such is the glory of the Son! Let me give a couple examples.

I love my wife. She is beautiful. And in a manner of speaking, she is glorious to me. I love everything about her. I could look at her all day and be with her all the time. But, her glory does not reveal to me the Father in the SAME way the Son reveals the father. He is “light.” He is “life.” He is “glory.” Another picture is the face of Nora. I love it! How glorious! (describe) Her face reveals some beautiful truths to me . . . (love, life, humility, truth, etc.) There is nothing on this earth that delights my soul than to look at her face when she smiles at me. When we look at a child, we should see some truths about God. But, ONLY in the Son, do we see and receive the glory of the Father.

Do you remember Jesus’ words with Phillip. In John 14 John describes Jesus’ conversation with Phillip, one of his disciples. **“Phillip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves”** (vv. 8-11).

Jesus is not saying to Phillip that He has the same kind of glory that my wife or my granddaughter, or any “glorious” thing has when I look at them. He is saying, I have the same glory as the Father. Let’s read the Word of God together from Col. 1:15-19; Heb. 1:1-13)

**Pastor: 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.**

**Congregation: 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 .

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Pastor: 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.

Congregation: After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Pastor: For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.

Congregation: Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

Pastor: And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

Congregation: And to which of the angels has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet?”

As we read and preach through John, we will find this to be a major theme with Him. He is the ONLY BEGOTTEN SON!

Application: Those who know the Son, know the Father. This is why Jesus says, “**I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me**” (John 14:6). “**There is only one mediator between God and man.**” There is ONLY one Son who reveals the glory of the Father in his fullness. Why? Because ONLY He has this fullness in himself.

Now, turn with me to the Book of Ephesians as we wrap things up today with some specific applications.

1. As the Church of Jesus Christ, we are described as having the “fullness” of the Son. Look at 1:22-23. “**And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.**” Because of his life, death,

and resurrection, this same fullness has come down to us. And, who are we (as described here). We are the church! This means we are not a social club. We are not a community of folks who like to hang out together. In Christ, (see all the previous verses of Eph. 1) we are his fullness! No other institution can say that in the world! This means that all the blessings of God have come to us. AND, this means that ALL God's blessings only come through the Church, the body of Christ. So how does this make you feel about the body of Christ here at Grace?

2. Only in the Church do we find the love of Christ coming in power. Look over at Eph. 3:14-21: **“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”** Paul prays that they (we) might know the love of Christ, and by knowing this love, we are “filled with all the fullness of God.” (Speak to this as the motive for all things.) It is the love of Christ that will compel us. To live the Christian life is to know and experience the love of Christ. This is power. So, we must keep our focus on Christ, his person, his work, etc.

3. From the fullness of Christ comes all growth in godliness. Look at Eph. 4:11-16 **“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”**

All of us have a built-in itch for glory! And no person, no institution, no circumstance will fill our desire. Only the glory of the Son and his fullness. So, stop looking to the things of this world to find your glory! Look unto the Son!