

The Face of Christ

2 Corinthians 4:4-6

4 ...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see **the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, who said, "*Light shall shine out of darkness,*" is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of **the glory of God in the face of Christ.**

BLANK → **The story of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments.** Down the mountain, extended experience with God.

His face glowed for a while with the glory of God. The people weren't comfortable with the experience.

Moses put a veil over his face to cover the glory shining from it, even though it was a fading glory.

2 Corinthians 3:7,13

7...the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was
13... Moses... used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away.

BLANK → **They weren't up to looking at this depiction of the glory of God:** this partial, short-term reflection of the glory of God

What would they have thought if they looked into the face of Christ?

(I Corinthians 10:12... *as an example... our instruction*)

→ Looking into a human face is actually a pretty complicated experience.

All kinds of things can be seen. → SIX SLIDES OF FACES...

Understanding / Kindness / Amusement / Scepticism / Discomfort / Fascination

BLANK → **If you were to look into the face of Christ,** how would YOU do?

What would you see? *Love !!!*

Of what? People BUT ALSO for God and holiness and justice and righteousness → ...

So here is a personal question that gets answered with another question.

Q: What will it be like to look into the face of Christ?

Q: What do we think of the glory of God?

Note: The experience of really knowing the glory of God is like the experience of looking into the face of Christ!

Rev. 1:16 ... out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and **His face was like the sun shining in its strength.**

1. **The glory of God is displayed in the world He has created.**

Psalms 19:1-3 The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world.

Something to keep in mind as you travel and vacation this summer.

The glory of God is what the Universe is about!

It's what it means! Sunrises and sunsets and the sun itself, and mountains and oceans and forests and beaches and thunderstorms and the moon and stars They are all about what God is all about.

"This is glorious! God is glorious! This is preparing me to look into the face of Christ!"

2. ... and in the events of human history.

Psalms 33:10,11 The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.

What to ponder as you watch the news. *"God is glorious! This is preparing me to look into the face of Christ!"*

Psalms 46:8,9 Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has wrought desolations in the earth. He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariots with fire.

1 Samuel 2:1-26 The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down ...and raises up. The LORD makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts. He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy...to make them sit with nobles, and inherit a seat of honor; For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and He set the world on them.

3. ... and in the works and the words of Jesus Christ

John 5:39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me..."

The whole point of Bible reading. *"This is glorious! God is glorious! This is preparing me to look into the face of Christ!"*

4. The glory of God is best displayed in the character of Christ.

Hebrews 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature...

Glorious in wisdom and power and love and justice.

Q: SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

a) **Look for the glory of God in all that we see.**

b) **Especially pay attention to the Bible** The instrument that God uses to overcome our blindness and darkness

2 Corinthians 4:4,5 the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving ... we ...preach ...Christ Jesus as Lord...

2 Corinthians 4:1-3 ...since we have this ministry ... not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth ...

John 8:31-32 "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (From sin / from darkness / from ignorance/error)

c) **And just wait!**

1 John 2:28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. (**2 Timothy 4:8** ... all who have loved His appearing.)

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who said, "*Light shall shine out of darkness,*" is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of ***the glory of God in the face of Christ.***