

The Thrill of Hope

MESSAGE: GARY DARNELL

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE

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The Glory of Jesus!

How does the identity of Jesus influence the Christian life?

2Cor. 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Can we be absolutely certain of Jesus' full, undiluted deity?

1. He is called "God" – "But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever' (1:8).
2. He acts like God – "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands" (1:10).
3. He is treated like God – "Let all God's angels worship him" (1:6).
4. And just for fun & worship . . .

Col. 1:18 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. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

Can we then revel (get excited) about Jesus when confronted with His incarnation?

1. Christ was "crowned" because He became human & died (9).

Heb. 2:9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor *because* of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

2. Christ identified with us in becoming like us (14).

Heb. 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, **that** through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

3. Christ was compelled to take on full humanity (17).

Heb. 2:17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, **so that** he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. Why is understanding the true identity of Jesus so crucial to the Christian life? See 2 Corinthians 3:17-18.
 - a. Give an example of what Paul means by freedom.
 - b. What would be a few specifics of the glory of Jesus we are to be beholding.
 - c. Whose image will we be transformed into as a result of beholding? Have you experienced this in your own life?
2. From the Hebrews 1 passage select the most compelling verse that supports Jesus' full deity. Why that one?
3. And what is your favorite portion in Colossians 1:18-19?
4. Based on Hebrews 2:9 explain why Jesus was "crowned with glory and honor"? In what sense did Jesus earn this crown? Explain.
5. Both Hebrews 2:14 and 2:17 relate Jesus' humanity to what He accomplished. How does the author describe Jesus' humanity, and how do we benefit from Jesus becoming human?
6. What can you do this week to "behold" the glory of Jesus based on the verses used in this message? What kind of transformation would like the Spirit of God to produce in your life?

SONGS

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven" – Charles Wesley, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Paul Baloche

"Everlasting God" – Brenton Brown, Ken Riley

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" – Robert J. Hughes, Charles Wesley

"Rock of Ages" – Thomas Hastings, Augustus Montague Toplady

"O Come All Ye Faithful" – Chris Tomlin

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$88,306.00
WEEKLY NEED: \$34,979.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,643,712.00
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,644,013.00