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Christ: The Light, Knowledge, & Glory of God

By Mike Walko

The New Testament of the Bible teaches us about Christ being the light, knowledge, and glory of God. Various passages in the Old Testament confirm these concepts. Light from God illuminates the truth in us. Knowledge is familiarity with different types of facts on a large range of issues that could be acquired by personal experience, observation, and study, or could be generated directly by God. Glory has to do with the honor, splendor, or high worth or value one may put on a person, place, or thing.

The Hebrew word for “glory” is *kabod*; the Greek word is *doxa*. As believers, we are exhorted to act for God’s glory. This was as true for Jewish believers in the Acts Period (1 Cor. 10:31) as it is true for believers, Jewish or not, today in this Dispensation of Grace (Col. 1:27).

In 2 Corinthians 4:6 (*KJV* used throughout), the Apostle Paul identifies all three of these directives (light, knowledge, and glory of God) with the Lord Jesus Christ. **For God, Who commanded the light to shine out of the darkness (John 1:5), has shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

In the ancient world the Jews sought light from God, the Greeks sought knowledge of this world through philosophy, and the Romans sought glory through military conquest. The Apostle Paul was familiar with these three cultures. Paul, who wrote many epistles, was a Jew born in Tarsus in Asia Minor, a Roman province where Greek was the native language.

For comparison to these three ideas, let us see how light, knowledge and glory are related to the Lord Jesus Christ in the Bible.

LIGHT

The Hebrew word for “light” is *ohr* and the Greek word is *phos*. God Himself is associated with light and NO darkness is found in Him (1 John 1:5). This concept is also found in Psalm 104:1-2. When the Lord Jesus was born and taken to the temple, the Prophet Simeon referred to Him as a Light to lighten the Gentiles (nations) and the glory of the people of Israel (Luke 2:32). He is the true Light Who enlightens all mankind (John 1:9). This particular verse also points to the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Himself declared that He was the Light of the world (John 9:5). His Light was seen in His transfiguration when His face did shine as the sun and His garment was white as the light (Matt. 17:2). This transfiguration can be seen as the zenith or highest point in our Lord’s ministry when He revealed His glory to Peter, James, and

John (Matt. 17:1-9).

KNOWLEDGE

True knowledge (Heb.-*daath*; Gk.-*gnosis*) comes directly from God and is better than gold (Prov. 8:10). God is a God of knowledge (1 Sam. 2:3). And in Christ all treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hid (Col. 2:3). God's will for us in this day and age is that by His grace we increase in our knowledge of Him (Col. 1:10). This increased knowledge comes from the study of His Word (2 Tim. 2:15). This concept complements the preceding verse: **"The grass withers, the flower fades: but the Word of our God shall stand for ever"** (Isa. 40:8). Proverbs 3:19-20 declares: **"The Lord by wisdom has founded the earth; by understanding has He established the heavens. By His knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew."**

GLORY

Moses saw God's glory on the top of Mount Sinai (Exod. 24:15-18). God's glory is opposite of man's self-pride which is just vanity and useless (Eccl. 2:13). God's glory is found in John 1:14 which says that the Lord was made flesh and **"lived among us (and we beheld His glory as the only Begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth"**. Psalm 86:9 says that **"all nations whom Thou hast made shall come and worship before Thee, O Lord, and shall glorify Thy name."** Also, in Psalm 96 we read, **"Declare His glory among the heathen, His wonders among all peoples."** We know that one day His glory will be openly manifest for all to see and **"the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it"** (Isa. 40:5). Joel 2:28 says that God will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. This pouring out will result in the knowledge of God permeating the whole earth in a way no one has ever seen before. Habakkuk 2:14 tells us that the earth shall be filled with the knowledge and the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. The same concept is found in Isaiah 11:9.

These preceding predictions must take place long before the second coming of Christ, since all that erred in spirit shall come to an understanding and all that murmured shall learn doctrine (Isa. 29:24). Yet at the Lord's second coming He is going to come in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thess. 1:8). It stands to reason that the pouring out of the Spirit comes first.

God's glory is also seen in the eight miracles of John's gospel. These signs when compared with the Old Testament show parallels to both historical events and prophecies:

- * Moses made the bitter water sweet (Exod. 15:23-25); the Lord Jesus turned the water into wine (John 2:1-10).
- * Moses fed the people in the wilderness (Exod. 16:1-14); the Lord fed the people in the desert (John 6:1-13).
- * God could walk on the waves of the sea (Job 9:8); the Lord Jesus walked on water to the disciples' fishing boat (John 6:16-20).
- * In the Kingdom the blind will be healed (Isa. 35:5); the Lord Jesus healed a blind man (John 9:1-

7).

- * In the future Kingdom the lame will leap like a deer (Isa. 35:6); the Lord Jesus Christ healed a lame man (John 5:1-9).
- * Elijah raised a widow's son from death (1 Kings 17:17-21); Jesus Christ raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:38-44).

These parallels show that the Lord Jesus worked to the glory of God, similar to how God worked in the past, and how He will yet work in the future in God's Kingdom (see **Seed & Bread** No. 27, *The Kingdom of God*, by Otis Q. Sellers). These eight miracles are signs to prove to all who read the truth about Jesus Christ, John 20:30-31: **"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples which are not written in this book. But these are written that ye (meaning you the reader) might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God and that believing ye might have life through His name."**

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the personification of the Word of God: **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God"** (John 1:1-2). In the Old Testament we read that **". . . the Word of the Lord is right; and all His works are done in truth. . . . By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made . . ."** (Psa. 33:4-6).

The glory of God is ascribed to the Lord Jesus Christ, which implies His deity. Take for example Isaiah 42:8: **"My glory I will not give to another."** And yet Jesus Christ deserves that same glory, as declared in Philippians 2:9-11: **". . . God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name . . . and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."** Therefore Jesus Christ cannot be anyone else other than God. As John 17:22-24 says: **"I and My Father are One."** Also we see that God is the first and the last in Isaiah 44:6: **". . . I am the first and I am the last; and beside Me there is no God."** Notice that Jesus Christ describes Himself similarly: **"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty"** (Rev. 1:8, 17). The Lord Who is the first and the last humbled Himself as a servant while on earth (Phil. 2:6-8) and later ascended to His place in the deity (Acts 1:9).

Let us all pray for the day when the whole world will come to see, during the future Kingdom of God (Isa. 2:1-5), that the Lord Jesus Christ IS the light, knowledge, and glory of God.