

Understanding the Glory of Jesus

5 Identifiers That Express His Glory

Introduction. Have you ever looked at a sunrise on the beach and thought, “What a glorious sunrise?” Or looked at a building and been amazed at the glorious lines and architecture of it? “Glory” is reverence, awe, beauty, and majesty — which can be seen in many ways on physical Earth. But most importantly, you can see it in Jesus Christ. The glory of Christ is the beauty and majesty of God made visible in Jesus.

Jesus Christ is the central theme of preaching because of His extraordinary glory (Acts 5:42; 8:35; 11:20; 17:3, 18). Understanding His glory will help us to serve Him and share Him with people who don’t know Him. Let’s jump into five identifying terms that express the glory of Jesus so that you can better direct your life.

I. He’s Glorious Because He’s Our Savior

- A. “Savior” means “deliverer or preserver.” It’s used 24 times in the New Testament and refers to Jesus (Luke 2:11; John 4:42; Acts 5:31; Philippians 3:20; Titus 1:4) and to God, who saves us through Jesus (Luke 1:47; 1 Timothy 1:1; 2:3; 4:10; Titus 1:3).
- B. The reason we need a Savior is because of our sins (Acts 5:31). The Apostle Paul saw the world divided into two groups: those who are being saved and those who are being lost. Those who are being saved can only be saved through Christ (John 8:24). No one comes to God except through Jesus (John 10:9).
- C. Several years ago, some said, “Preach the man and not the plan.” This is impossible, and it’s erroneous thinking. The man is the plan and the plan is the man. You can’t separate the two, and you can’t preach one without the other.

II. He’s Glorious Because He’s Our Lord

- A. Certainly Christ is our Savior; but He can’t be our Savior and not be our Lord.
 - 1. The term for “Lord” is used a little under 700 times in the New Testament. God is also referred to by this term, and that implies an equal position between God and Jesus.
 - 2. In Acts 2:36 as the first gospel sermon reached its climax, Peter said that Jesus had been proclaimed as Lord and Christ. In John 20:28, Thomas proclaimed that Jesus was Lord and God.
 - 3. “Lord” indicates a need for respect and obedience; and was first an adjective describing one with power or authority. Christ has the ability to command us (John 13:34; 15:14). If you accept Him as your Savior it means you accept all He says as Lord (Luke 6:46). Accept His authority and accept His grace.
- B. A king can do whatever he wishes. He can rule wisely or he can plunder his country, subjects, and resources. Our Lord Jesus came to accomplish the greatest feat ever: the salvation of mankind (Luke 19:10; Hebrews 2:14-17).

III. He’s Glorious Because He’s Our Guide

- A. A guide is necessary in order for us to return to the right way (Isaiah 53:6). A guide is one who leads the way and Jesus is that guide (John 14:6). There’s

none other; only He's qualified to be our guide, for only He can sympathize with our needs (Hebrews 4:15-16).

- B. In Hebrews, Jesus is the One pictured as our forerunner which is one who goes in advance to a place where the rest are to follow (Hebrews 6:20). The high priest under the Aaronic priesthood went where no man could follow, but only once a year on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:1-2; 23:27). However, our guide Jesus entered heaven and all men can follow.
- C. We certainly are in need of the favor that's pictured in Revelation 7:17. And He's there to be of such service.

IV. He's Glorious Because He's Our Hope

- A. Jesus Christ is what keeps us afloat in the turbulent sea of life (cp. Matthew 14:22-27). He's what keeps us aloof from the wretchedness in which we must exist while in this world. He's the means of our sustenance in the middle of a desert which offers almost nothing to sustain us.
- B. Hope's defined as "confident expectation" and the "happy anticipation" that we'll some day be in heaven with Him. God's a God of hope (Romans 15:13). How sad that some have such shallow hope on account of such small faith. How sad that some can't know the peace of God on account of their disbelief (1 Corinthians 15:19-22). What a blessed hope and what an opportunity for us to rejoice in hope (Romans 12:12)!
- C. The saints of God don't look to what pleases the body nor to what's popular from time to time. Their hope and aim is centered on the everlasting good. Their mind is pointed to the lasting and invisible realm, lest the love of what's visible drags them down (Colossians 3:1-2; cp. 1:27).

V. He's Glorious Because He's Our Judge

- A. Those who see only the grace and mercy of Jesus have greatly misjudged His essential nature (Acts 10:42-43). In order to be God, He must not only abhor all that's evil, but He must pronounce judgment on evil doers. This is necessary to fulfill the characteristic of a "just" God.
- B. Jesus came as our Savior; He came as our Lord; He's our great hope. But the final work of Jesus, the Son of God, will be to "judge the world in righteousness" (Acts 17:30-31; Romans 2:14-16; Hebrews 9:27-28). Be impressed with His love and mercy; but don't forget that "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31).

Conclusion. Peter commanded us to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen" (2 Peter 3:18). These are the five reasons why Jesus's glory is unsurpassed.

God has called you to obtain His glory (2 Thessalonians 2:14). You can do that by making certain that "Christ is in you" (Colossians 1:27). To do that, you need to be united with Christ and have put on Christ (Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27). You can do that when you respond to the gospel while we stand and sing.