

## Christo centricity: The Centrality of Christ in Creation and Eternity

### Prelude

We have seen God has chosen to create the universe for his pleasure, and to teach his creation things about himself. Concerning man, he created us for fellowship with himself, and fellowship with others. He creates us to work and obey his word, as his Image-Bearers. As the moon reflects the light of the sun, and has no light within herself, so we as the moon are to reflect the light of the Son, though we have no light in and of ourselves ([Psalm 89:34-37](#)).

He desires to show his love, mercy, and grace, and also his wrath, justice and anger towards sin. Through all of this, God is glorified, both by showing mercy and saving sinners, and also by judging and damning sinners.

The Diving Trinity has purposed and devised a plan in which all Persons are glorified in their work on the earth. As it has been said, the Father willed it, the Son fulfilled it, and the Spirit applies it.

To summarize, it all goes back to glorifying the LORD.

John Piper says, "God's glory is the radiance of his holiness, the radiance of his manifold, infinitely worthy and valuable perfections", and again, "The glory of God is the infinite beauty and greatness of God's manifold perfections. The infinite beauty—and I am focusing on the manifestation of his character and his worth and his attributes, all of his perfections and greatness are beautiful as they are seen and there are many of them. That is why I use the word manifold.", and again, "So the glory of God is the holiness of God made manifest."

This definition does appear to be consistent with what we find in scripture. [Romans 3:23](#), all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Implying that sinning is short of God's glory. Therefore, it seems to follow that not sinning is coming to terms with God's glory.

That is why, Jesus Christ is referred to as the glory of the LORD, and the glory refers to his complete and pure holiness.

Think about it this way, as we learned in our study on the purpose of evil in creation and eternity, that God has used evil as a means of manifesting attributes of himself (his holiness, power, authority, wrath, and mercy), and since it is all about glorifying God, which is the outward manifestation of his holiness, can we not see how Christ is central to God's plan and purpose in the world – since he fully reveals God as the God-man!

In Exodus, Moses is being told by the LORD to go into the land of Canaan and possess it, the land he promised to their fathers. God says he would send an angel before them ([Exodus 33:1-11](#)).

Moses then says something that is quite remarkable. He says, Lord, you say bring up this people [into the land] and you have **not let me know whom you will send with me**. This is referring to the angel of [33:1-2](#)), and that same angel mentioned in all of Exodus.

The angel of the LORD in scripture oftentimes is God himself.

- The Angel of God that spoke to Jacob said he was God ([Genesis 31:11-13](#))
- The Angel Jacob spoke of redeemed him from all evil ([Genesis 48:15-16](#))

- Moses saw the angel of the LORD from the burning bush, but it was said he met with God (Exodus 3:2-6)
- The angel of God was the pillar of the cloud (Exodus 14:19)
- The Angel would bring them to the place he prepared, the Angel has God's name, has the power to forgive sins, and obedience is required to him (Exodus 23:20-23)
- The angel of God's presence saves his people, suffers with them, and brings about the day of the LORD (Isaiah 63:1-9)
- Paul referred to Christ as the angel of God, who he belongs to and who he serves (Acts 27:21-25)

When Moses asked the LORD, show me your glory he wanted to know who this "angel" that was leading the children of Israel in the wilderness. God agrees to reveal his glory; he just wasn't allowed to see God's face.

What did the LORD then do?

He said he would make all his goodness (attribute) pass before Moses and proclaim the name of the LORD before Moses (attributes of his person). Are you getting it yet?

Then in Exodus 34 God descends in the cloud, stands with Moses and proclaims the name of the LORD (attributes). Then it says the LORD passed by before him (I thought he was standing with Moses?) and proclaimed, "The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped." All attributes of his person. Are you getting it yet?

I am personally convinced the Father introduced Moses to the Son of God, that Angel that had been with the fathers, that is now with them delivering them from Egypt and bringing them to the Promised Land.

Psalm 2 tells us about the Son of God, Proverbs 30 says, do you know the name of God's Son? Isaiah 9:6-7 says a child born, is a Son given.

Is it any wonder at all, that God's name is, I AM (Exodus 3:13-15)? I AM ... what? What are you LORD? Exactly! He is who he is. Our natural reaction to the name I AM, is "I AM... what?" God calls this his eternal name, and his memorial to all generations. Jesus said, before Abraham was, I AM (John 8:58).

Are you getting it yet?

God has chosen to reveal himself to his creation, thus glorifying himself by manifesting all his holiness. The heavens declare the glory of God, and Jesus Christ the Son of God, declares the glory of God!

The glory of God is Jesus Christ – 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Revelation 21:22-23

### Christ as the Center:

- Ephesians 3:9-11
  - God has an eternal purpose in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- (21) – God is glorified in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages (creation through eternity)
- “Before the foundation of the world”
  - **Hebrews 4:3** – The works were finished from the foundation of the world from God’s perspective
    - What are these works?
      - We have been touching on them over the last 2 weeks
      - Ultimately these works are centered on and around the person of Christ
        - Hence, Christo centricity
  - **Matthew 13:34-35** – Jesus was to reveal his hidden plan before the foundation of the world. This plan was about himself.
  - **1 Peter 1:20** – Foreordained before the foundation of the world to come and sacrifice himself for us (**Acts 2:22-24, Acts 3:18**)
    - Who has believed our report? (**Isaiah 53:1**)
    - Christ was to die for others (**Daniel 9:24-26**)
  - **Matthew 25:34** - An eternal kingdom of righteousness, with Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords
  - **Ephesians 1:4** – Chosen in Christ before the world began, to the end we might be holy and without blame before him in love
- **Colossians 1:12-27**
  - Paul summarizes the work of Christ and who Christ is
    - Work of Christ toward his elect (12-14, 20-29)
      - (12) Partakers of an eternal inheritance to his elect
      - (13) Deliverance from the power of darkness into the kingdom of God (see also **Acts 26:18**)
      - (14) Redemption through his blood, forgiveness of sins
      - (20) Peace through his blood, reconciliation of all things in heaven and earth unto himself
      - (21-23) Presented unto God as glorified
      - (27) Christ dwells in us – our hope of glory (**Ephesians 1:13-14**)
    - Who Christ is (15-19)
      - (15) The image of the invisible God (**Hebrews 1:1-3**), firstborn of every creature
      - (16) All things created by him and for him
        - In heaven and earth
        - Visible and invisible
          - Thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers
      - (17) He is before all things, all things consist by him
      - (18) Head of the church, the Beginning (The alpha), Firstborn from the dead, He has preeminence in all things
      - (19) The fullness of deity dwells in him bodily (**Colossians 2:8-9**)
- **Revelation 19:10** (**John 5:39-40, 45-47**)
  - The spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus
  - “testimony of Jesus” found 4 times – **Rev 1:2, 1:9, 12:17, 19:10**

- Refers to the revelation of God, his words that he has inspired and spoken
  - This book is his “testimony” or witness, hence we have an Old and New Testament.
  - If you testify of Christ, you have the spirit of prophecy.
- The Bible focuses on the person of Christ
  - **Genesis 3**
    - First prophecy speaks of a woman’s seed (virgin birth) destroying and undoing the works of Satan (**1 John 3:8**)
  - **Psalm 40:6-8, Hebrews 10:4-10**
    - The book is about the testimony of Jesus and here we have in Psalms a passage about the coming of Christ and about this body given to him.
    - The context is sacrifice interestingly enough
    - The scriptures say I [Christ] come, this was written before I would come that I would come, and I delight to do God’s will, his law is in my heart!
      - Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done!
  - **Luke 24:25-33**
    - All the prophets foretold and spoke of Christ, going back to Moses who wrote the Torah.
    - Jesus then teaches a Bible study going over all of it with them.
  - **Luke 24:44-53**
    - Jesus teaches the rest of his disciples about what the scriptures had spoken concerning him.
  - Is it any wonder to us at all, that one of the Son’s names is called The Word of God?
- God is gloriously glorified through Christ
  - **Revelation 5**

**Next Week:** We will focus on the practical implications of what we have learned over the last few weeks. We are going to talk about how we ought to live in light of knowing his will, how we are to reflect the glory of the Son, as a faithful witness.