

## Our Vision of Christ

**Text:** 2Corinthians 5:7 “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

**Consideration:** What is the difference that is between our beholding of the glory of Christ in this world by faith, and the vision which we shall have of the same glory hereafter?

**Comparison:** A Comparison and Contrast of Our Present and Our Promised Vision of Christ

### Present Vision:

The Character of Our Present Vision of Christ:

Characteristic 1: Visual

Point 1: Visual by Reflection

Point 2: Visual by Telescope

Characteristic 2: Verbal

Point 1: The Essence of These Words Offered in Clear Truth

Point 2: The Effect of These Words Apprehended Through Weak Means

The Conception of Our Present Vision of Christ:

Point 1: Limited by Our Imperfections

Point 2: Sufficient to Our Edification

The Cultivation of Our Present Vision of Christ:

The Windows of the Ordinances of the Gospel

Point 1: They are Appointed Means

Point 2: They are Gospel Means

### Promised Vision:

**The Character of Our Promised Vision of Christ**

Negative: It is not communicated by way of representation - as previously in the appointed means of the preaching of the gospel and the ordinances. Rather, it will now be...

Positive: Its is communicated to us by way of reality...

1. It is Substantial - it will now be Christ in his person who is presented to us in the fullness of reality of who he is. We shall see him, John states, as he is.

2. It is Visual - We shall see him with our eyes, as previously in the sacraments, but now as he is, face to face, not by way of representation, but rather in person.

3. It is Intellectual - Our perception of his glory will no consist so much in our apprehension of it physically, but rather intellectually we will apprehend the glory of his divine being.

4. It is Continual - No longer will there be interruptions caused by sin and limitations of our earthly existence. There we will forever be with the Lord - that our sight of him will be continual and direct.

5. It is Profitable - The benefit to us personally is at present incomprehensible, for we personally, beholding him as he is, will be transformed into that same glory. We will, Paul states, be given a body that is like his glorious body, and our whole being will be glorified and again bear the image of our Savior unhindered by sin and fallenness.

### **The Conditionality of Our Promised Vision of Christ**

Several things about our present existence hinder our future vision of Christ. There are conditions that will have to be significantly altered in order for our future vision of Christ to become reality. These conditions are physical and immaterial and are treated by Owen again (as in the examination of the character of our future vision of Christ) both negatively and positively.

Negative: Negatively speaking Owen seeks to communicate to us that It would unedifying for us to see Christ in his glory in our present physical condition. Our present physical, unglorified state, leaves us ill-equipped to handle the glorious reality of Christ glorious state.

Illustration:       The disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration - Matt 17  
                          John on the Isle of Patmos - Rev 1  
                          Isaiah in the Temple - Isa 6

Each of these encounters and others demonstrate that man in his unglorified state is ill-equipped to handle being in the present of the unfettered glory of Christ.

### **Therefore two points of application are presented:**

1. The Folly of Men Who Long for Christ to Reign on the Earth Before Our Future Glorification

Quote 176

2. The Folly of Men Who Would Represent the Glory of Christ with Earthly Images

Quote 126

Consider for a moment that the glory of Christ is a glory that is to be comprehended, on this side of our future glorification, by revelation alone. We must be ever guarded from our tendency toward vain imaginations.

The question often asked - What is God like to you? Poor question, leading one to think he has a right to conceive of God as he would like him to be and furthermore, that he has the ability to conceive of God in a way that would be proper and fitting.

Turn to Hymn 132: Join All the Glorious Names - What names are listed?

Prophet  
Jesus  
Priest  
Counselor  
Guide  
Pattern/Example  
Saviour  
Lord  
Conqueror

King  
Shepherd

Still, the hymn writer confesses, with all these names the fullness of the glory of Christ is not found out in its fulness. But - and here is the important point - this is all we have. It is wise not to go beyond what is written. Why?

Consider the commandment of Exo 20:4-5

Hodge: Idolatry consists not only in the worship of false gods, but also in the worship of the true God by images.

Why no images: See Packer on Knowing God

1. Images dishonor God for they obscure his glory.

Quote Calvin p.45 in Packer

Quote Packer, p.46

Ill: The Golden Calf

2. Images mislead us, for they convey false ideas about - See Exo 32:5

Quote Packer - p.47

Positive: Positively speaking Owen notes that several are required in order for us to see Christ in his glory.

Requirement 1: The Setting Free of Our Minds

A. In order for us to apprehend the glory of Christ by sight and not by faith alone, our minds must be set free from the corruption which they continue to suffer do to the remaining depravity of our natures.

Consider 1: Our Totally Depraved Condition Prior to the Arrival of Grace

See Eph 2:1-3, Romans 3:9-18, 1Cor 2:14

Consider 2: The Cure of the Totalness of Our Depravity at the Arrival of Grace

See Eph 2:4-7, 5:8-21, Romans 6:1-14, Col 3:1-10, Gal 2:20

Consider 3: The Conquering of Our Remaining Depravity is in No Way Total

See Rom 7:21-25, 8:12-13, 1John 2:1-2

B. In order for us to apprehend the glory of Christ by sight and not by faith alone, our minds must be see free from their connection by which they as hindered in their operation with our fallen flesh.

Consider 1: Our minds do not operate separately from our bodies.

Consider 2: The body is the instrument of the mind.  
Consider 3: The mind will be free from the fallen flesh at death.  
Consider 4: The mind will be free from its incapacities in association with the body at the bodies renewal.

Requirement 2: The Implantation of a New Light in the Mind - The Light of Glory

Definition: Light - the capacity of man to apprehend the glory of God and make a fitting response to him as he is.

Level 1: The Light of Nature

See Pro 20:27, 1Cor 2:14

Level 2: The Light of Faith

See 2Cor 4:6, 5:7, 1Cor 2:11-16

Level 3: The Light of Glory

See 1John 3:1-3, 2Cor 5:6-10, John 17:24

Owen: Grace renews nature; glory perfects grace.

Ill: Mark 8:22-24

Requirement 3: The Granting of a New Glorified Frame Likened Unto Christ's

See Phil 3:20-21 and 1Cor 15:35-57