

Christmas and the Kingdom Yours is the Glory

1. God's glory speaks of the weightiness of His presence and the radiance of His splendor. It's an encounter we pursue and a beauty we seek. *Exodus 24:17; 2 Chronicles 7:1-3; John 1:14; John 17:24; Revelation 21:23; Psalm 27:4*

“The Biblical word ‘glory’ is (in Hebrew) kavod which means heavy, weighty, significant...The ‘glory of the Lord’ indicates the brilliance that is connected with all God’s virtues and his self-revelation in nature and grace... As an object of loving adoration it is called his beauty. As an object of our reverent submission it is called his majesty. As an object of our joyous gratitude it is called his worthiness.” - **Herman Bavink**

2. God's glory speaks of the majesty of His character, and the fame of His name as most clearly seen in the person of Jesus Christ. It's a truth that we treasure and a song that we sing. *Exodus 33:15-19a; Exodus 34:5-7; Hebrew 1:3a*

“The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.” - **Westminster Catechism**

“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.” - **John Piper**

Praise is our vocal marveling before God of the worthiness of Christ. It's our way of declaring to God our joyous gratitude for who He is and what He has done.

Testimony is our vocal marveling before others of the mind blowing goodness of Christ. It's our way of declaring to men our joyous gratitude for who He is and what He has done.

3. When our aim is to live for the glory of God, we become reflections of Christ, and into the darkness we shine. *2 Corinthians 3:7-9,12-13,18; Isaiah 60:1-2; Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Corinthians 10:31; John 14:13*

Next week's reading guide:

John 15:1-17
John 17:1-21
Romans 1:1-7, Ephesians 1:1-14
Romans 6:1-14, 2 Timothy 2:3-10
Romans 15:5-9, 1 Corinthians 10:31-33
Romans 16:25-27, Ephesians 3:14-21
Philippians 1:3-11, Revelation 19:1

Discussion Questions:

1. What helps you practice God's presence and what doesn't?
2. What does it mean to seek God's beauty? What competes for your attention? What helps redirect your gaze?
3. In what ways can we treasure the truth of God's glorious nature? Why is this important? What's an aspect of God's nature that you're treasuring lately?
4. Share a testimony of something you have seen God doing or saying lately. How can we keep our testimony fresh?
5. What can you do to make living for God's glory a higher priority in 2015? What role might prayer play?