

IN THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST

II Corinthians 4:6. “For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

I) GOD COMMANDED LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS.

- a) Blindness (open the eyes of the blind)
- b) Ignorance (Come to the knowledge of the truth)
 - i) Our identity
 - (1) Who we were in Him before the foundation of the world.
 - (2) Who we are in Him now.
 - ii) Our purpose and destiny.
- c) God has shined in our hearts to give light of the knowledge of His glory.
 - i) What is the glory of God?
 - ii) Knowledge of the glory of God will fill the earth (the glory of God has already filled the earth—we haven’t come to the full knowledge of it)
- d) In the face of Jesus.

II) JESUS IS THE ESSENCE OF ALL THAT GOD WAS AND IS

- a) Jesus was with God in the beginning.
 - i) “Father, restore to me the glory I had with you from the beginning.”
 - ii) Emptied Himself to take on the form of a servant.
- b) No doubt was blinded to His true identity until He came to full maturity.
 - i) Mary already knew.
 - ii) No doubt she constantly told Him.
 - iii) He had to come to the realization for Himself.
- c) Temptation in the wilderness.
 - i) Questioned His deity.
 - ii) He already knew that He was the Son of God. “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”
 - iii) He came to settle the identity question once and for all.
 - (1) Never again questioned who He was.
 - (2) He was able to declare boldly that He was the Son of God.

III) WE HAVE LOST OUR IDENTITY.

- a) We have heard God’s declaration over us, but we’re still not convinced.
 - i) That we’re the righteousness of God; a son of God.
 - ii) Redeemed; saved; a new creation.
- b) Must settle once and for all when we come out of our wilderness (which should be temporary).
 - i) Will remain there as long as it takes.
- c) Difference between wilderness and battlefield.
 - i) Jesus still had opposition after He came out of the wilderness.
 - ii) Wilderness is to settle your identity.
 - iii) Jesus never wavered because He was set on who He was and what His purpose was.
- d) It took the children of Israel 40 years to find out who they really were.
 - i) The chosen of God; a holy nation; a peculiar people; a nation of priests.
 - ii) They were well able to conquer every enemy in the land.

e) There we still giants.

IV) GOD'S GLORY WAS REVEALED IN JESUS.

a) Not in space; not geography; but a man.

b) Jesus gave a face to God.

i) Jesus was the body of God that could be seen, touched in this earth.

ii) We are the body of Christ.

c) **WHAT IS THE REVELATION OF GOD REVEALED THROUGH JESUS?**

i) Revealed in His nature.

ii) Jesus was not the amelioration of God.

d) Belief of the Gnostics (false teachers in days of the early Church).

i) All matter is evil.

(1) The body is evil.

(2) Anything associated with the flesh is evil, including food and sex.

ii) God had to be far removed from creation.

(1) The God of creation was the evil, ill-natured God of the Old Testament, which was different from the true God.

iii) The only way back to God was through superior knowledge.

(1) Had to go through many mediators; had to have special knowledge to get past.

(2) Jesus was the immediate mediator.

V) WHAT IS GOD'S NATURE?

a) Everything that Jesus reflected.

i) God is love.

ii) God is mercy and truth.

iii) God is grace.

(1) John 1:4-5. "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

(2) John 1:14. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace, and truth."

(3) John 1:16. "And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace."

(4) John 1:17. "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

b) Why do we see God the way we do?

i) According to our perception of an earthly father.

ii) In the light He has been presented.