



## “Pre”-James 4:4-5 Pt 2 ☺ - The Beauty of the LORD!

September 13, 2015

### Foundational Text: James 4:4-5

Last week, we looked at the eschatological end-game...the glorious future of the saint of the God. I strongly suggest and exhort that you look again at the perspective encouragements from “A Vision of Heaven” from last week. The goal is that when considering the call to abandon friendship with the world (Jam 4:4), we all might be:

*...Overwhelmed at the majesty and power of God! Don't allow yourself to lose your awe! Imagine this scene; affix your gaze upon Him who is on the throne; then think of the best response. Awestruck! Prostrate! Mesmerized! Ashamed! Wonder! Worship! Let the “cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches” (Matt 13:22) melt away under the weight of His glory! (Rev 4:1-5)*

### The Beauty of the LORD!

- The goal today is to take another step towards Christian maturity that we might lovingly long for the **pure** instead of lamenting the loss of the ugly.
- Paul wrote, “*Philippians 4:8-9 ESV Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (9) What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me--practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*” Amen!

#### *Pictures, Pictures, Pictures*

1. We've used the word “picture” quite a bit recently...and we've done so on purpose.
2. One of the great tragedies in modern Bible teaching is our inability to help the saint of God see both the commands of God and the illustration or the picture the command paints.
3. In other words, the *didactic* is also a **description**; the “do this or don't do this” *displays* something about God; the *precept* very often is meant to *portray* about our King!
4. The examples are just about endless: marriage is a picture of Christ and the Church; singleness is a picture of the devoted disciple; the call to holiness is a picture of a purified bride; corporate worship prefigures heavenly worship; the garden also shows us heaven, where we will walk in unfettered intimacy with God, etc.
5. So many pictures for the church: an army with armor, a body with many members, a family, a shepherd with his sheep.
6. Why is this important?
  - a. Because it helps to ease our transition from disobedient to **consistently** obedient.
  - b. Because the LORD's precepts ARE **beautiful** as He is, and it helps one to see that.
  - c. Because it gives one a better sense of **heart** of the LORD.
7. For example, almost the entire Old Testament paints a picture of God's **LOVE** in promising a Redeemer, but also God's **HOLINESS** which is why the Redeemer had to come. If you miss this, it can read harshly...as if our LORD is unjust or tyrannical. Nothing could be further from the truth!
8. Subsequently, almost the entire New Testament paints a picture of that loving Redeemer saving, exhorting, leading, and marrying His purified bride. Miss this, and spiritual complacency is a common result. *Would His betrothed, for whom He suffered and died, commit adultery with the world?*

9. As we look at the *Beauty of the LORD*, look at the descriptions a bit deeper. SEE the picture.  
10. Then ask, “Why would we want to offend this God with a love for the world?”

### The Beauty of the LORD

#### A Desire to See

*Psalms 27:1-5 ESV*

- That we too might desire this! I submit that your posture towards God will dramatically **shift** when this desire takes root!
- What do you desire? What drives you? What are your motivations?

#### A Response to Seeing

*Psalms 63:1-4 ESV*

- Understanding who He is...having a sense of His majesty changes the worshipper!
- Ought we not bless Him as long as we live? Shouldn't we lift our hands in **surrender** and praise?

#### His Beauty and our Humility!

*Isaiah 6:1-5 ESV*

- Isaiah nails it. Seeing the beauty of the Lord in Scripture should produce humble, **contrite** hearts.
- How can we be consistently arrogant when we've glimpsed HIM? How can we assert our own agendas in light of who HE is? Shouldn't we rather fall prostrate, more aware of our own “lostness” and uncleanness?

#### The Lord wants us to See Him Better

*2 Corinthians 3:17-18 ESV*

- In context, the chains of sin and our helplessness before the purity of the Law has been removed in Christ. The veil of **stubbornness** over our eyes has been taken away.
- Unlike the many of Old Testament saints, we can SEE Him better and therefore obey in and by the Spirit! This comes from the Lord!

#### Behold the beauty, majesty, and authority of Jesus!

*Revelation 1:4-20 ESV*

- The faithful witness! The firstborn from the dead! The ruler of the Kings of the earth! He loves us! He has freed us by His blood!
- Alpha and Omega! The Almighty! One like the son of man! Eyes like a flame of fire! A roaring voice! The first and the last! He who died and is alive evermore! He who has conquered death and hell!
- And fully in **charge** of His church: the angels of the seven churches IN HIS HAND. The seven churches HE COMMANDS. In His mouth is a sharp, two-edge sword!

#### *Again, a wonderful Perspective!*

Friends, we so often miss the beauty of the God we serve. His dominion. His majesty. His authority and power. His love. His purity. We can get so pulled into pride, into what we want from Him, into our circumstances. I say lift your vision and see God better. Behold His beauty. Then consider His desire for our fidelity to Him instead of the world.

May Christ alone be praised. Amen.