



Christmas Is

December 2017

- What is God's glory?

- Four points

1. His Glory is hard to describe—glory is more like the word beauty than the word basketball...

- "God's glory is the infinite beauty and greatness of God's manifold perfections" –John Piper

2. His glory is His holiness on display

- **Isaiah 6:3**

And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!"

- God's holiness—the fact that He is set apart from everything else—demands that the world be filled with His glory

3. His glory is impossible to escape—regardless of if we acknowledge it or not

- God's glory is much like sunlight
 - All around us during the day, and we don't think twice about it, yet without it, we would not be able to survive
 - Sometimes it is so incredibly extravagant that we cannot escape it

4. His glory is meant to be seen

- **Psalm 19:1 ESV**

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

- **Psalm 29:3 ESV**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over many waters.

- **Psalm 57:5 ESV**

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

- Piper said that “God’s glory is the infinite beauty and greatness of God’s manifold perfections”
 - “Displayed in a way that we can see and respond to it.”
 - Responding is key—when we see and acknowledge His beauty, His perfection, His power, we glorify Him
 - The Lord’s beauty will fill the earth, regardless if we acknowledge it or not
 - **Luke 19:40 ESV**
He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

- **God's Glory Revealed**

- God's glory on display for Moses (Exodus 33)
 - Moses got to see where the Lord's glory "just was"
- When Jesus was born, God's glory revealed in a way that Moses had hoped for, but never saw
- Christmas is God's glory on display not just for one man, but for the world

- **Glory Among Us**

- John 1:14 ESV

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- The WORD became flesh
 - This Word is the Lord
 - This is the incarnation—meaning that He came to be like us
 - He dwelt among us—to show us His glory
 - “The tabernacle was the place where Heaven and Earth collided.” –Jefferson Bethke

- Different than anyone ever expected
 - He put on flesh and subjected himself to the brokenness of this world
 - He came to live with people—not apart from them
 - He revealed God’s glory to people
 - He brought grace and truth rather than a conquering sword.
 - He came as a baby...born to an unwed teenage mother in poverty and obscurity
 - When He arrived, He was announced to shepherds, not kings...

- Why did He defy all of these expectations?
 - So that His glory would shine...for Him to show off!

- This should change how we celebrate Christmas
 - **Romans 5:2 ESV**
Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- What it looks like to rejoice in hope: Vietnam POW's
 - It was this good news—the truth that he was alive that created an assurance of hope!
- Christian, this is the good news of Christmas for us!!!
 - God's glory puts an expiration date on all of our troubles—no matter what they are.
 - When we say "I feel like this is going to overwhelm me," God's glory says "but God...keep going!"