

## 2 Peter 1: 16-21 - We have glory through the glorious Lord

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ,  
amen.

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Dear Christian friends:

There are certain images that are kept into our memory forever. For example a woman does not forget her wedding day. She cannot forget her nice dress and the moment she walked toward the altar where her future husband was waiting for her. Or perhaps you never forget a trip to another country and the beautiful places you visited there. There are people who have gone the Grand Canyon. Hear what one of those people says "It was an awesome experience to see one of the amazing works of God. I will take this marvelous experience to grave with a smile. I recommend that you should visit this wonderful deeds of nature before you leave Earth."

I have talked to members who had gone to Israel and they told me how beautiful and wonderful things are in the land where Jesus Christ walked. Friends, in our life many things affect us. When I was in grade 6 I was captain of a volleyball team. I remember that during a match I won the whole set serving myself the 15 points. I do not know if I was a good player or the other team was a mediocre team. Anyway I was so happy for what I had done. I know that I will never forget that day.

I think most of us have experienced those feelings in some sort of way. We have all seen, or done or heard or touched things so wonderful, so beautiful, that we wonder if anything could be as glorious as this. Think back to how you felt in that special, unforgettable moment you had lived, and then try to imagine how Peter, James, and John must have felt on that mountaintop two thousand years ago, when, for a brief moment, they were given the opportunity to see Jesus for what He really was, as His true, divine glory shone through His mortal flesh and blood.

Friends, if the sight of something like the Grand Canyon or the smell of home baked pies can linger in our memories, then imagine the impact that glorious moment had in the lives of the disciples. It was something they would never forget, and the glory of that moment would live in them until they died.

But what does all this have to do with us this morning? Well, today is the Sunday of the Transfiguration, a day to remember this marvelous miracle which took place before Peter, James, and John. But more than that, it is an opportunity for us

to remember the true glory of Christ, and the glory that we have through Him. And as we see the glory of Christ, shining for us today through the word, we pray that this blessed sight might be etched into our memories so that in all we do, we may always be glorying in the Lord of glory who has brought us glory through His saving death and resurrection.

Glory is something that is highly prized by the people of our world. It's hard not to think of the glorious moments of Canada's diverse athletic past. While the most recent one that may come to mind would be the Vancouver Olympics' display of sportsmanship. There were also the Montreal and Calgary Olympics (in 1976 and 1988 respectively), a couple of World Series wins by the Blue Jays, the creation of the Formula 1 masters, and oh yes, almost too many Stanley Cups to count.

Sportscasters speak of football teams travelling down the road to glory, as they struggle to make it to the playoffs. And if they manage to win the final game, then they receive the glory that goes to the victors; at least for a little while. A great artist or a music star might receive a measure of glory for the things they have accomplished, and an academy award winning film might be considered something glorious. And that's what it's all about, isn't it?

For too many people, nothing is as important as glory, nothing matters except receiving praise and adoration, fame and honour for the things that they do. We may even refer to people as glory hounds. And yet there is nothing more fleeting than the glory that this world has to offer. Someone can be on top today, but on the bottom the next day. They may think they have received glory, but they find that glory often does not last. But there is something different about the glory we see in the transfiguration of Christ. Of course, in Him we see the divine glory of God, or as John says: **we beheld His glory, glory as the only begotten of the father, full of grace and truth.**" But more than that, His glory speaks to our hearts of a never ending glory in which we shall share. When Jesus was transfigured and His really glory as God shone through for a moment, it did two things.

First, it served to show Peter, James, and John who Jesus really was. The voice of God made sure of that: **this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**" But it also gave them a glimpse of glory that awaits all those who trust in God, and that glimpse of glory stayed with them, and brought them comfort and strength in the days ahead. It was this glimpse of glory that gave them the confidence to keep on believing, to keep on proclaiming the Word of God, even when their preaching brought them persecution and hatred from men. We might say that the

glory they saw in Christ enabled them to live their lives in a manner which brought glory to God. It enabled them to rejoice greatly, and to take pride in the glorious Lord. They knew that no matter what this world thought of them, no matter what this world held in store for them, a day of glory was coming, a day when Christ would bring them to the glory they saw in Him on the mount of transfiguration.

Of course, it was more than just the few moments on that mountain that filled Peter and the other disciples with the faith and hope that led them throughout their lives. They saw the glory of the Lord in His miracles, in His gracious words of life. And more than anything else they saw the glory of the Lord in the cross where He would die for the sins of the entire world and in the empty tomb where He conquered the power of death. They saw Jesus for what He was, the Saviour, who came to take away their sin and to give them eternal life. And the glory they saw in Him stayed with them as they lived to give glory to Him in all they did.

The glorious Lord of all came into this world and made Himself known to men like Peter and James and John so that through them we too might have the hope of glory they found in Him. In the scriptures we can look back to that mount of transfiguration and see Christ revealed in His glory, and that sight can reaffirm our faith and hope for the future. We can look at the cross and empty tomb and see what Jesus Christ has done for our salvation. Christ appeared for us; He was transfigured for us, and most of all He died and rose again for us, that in Him we might have faith and hope. And that faith and hope give us reason to glory in the glorious Lord.

St. Paul said: **When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.**” The day is coming when we will leave this world of pain and tears, but we will be leaving it for a far better world. We are told that on that day, Christ will transform the body- our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory. From that time on and forever, we will live in glory, free from the problems, cares and pains of this world, as we share in the glory that Christ has given to us, the same glory that He reveals to us in His transfiguration. But even now we have glory through the glorious Lord. We know what Christ has done for us, and what we are in Him. We should glory in our new identity: we should rejoice that God has made us His children through His Son. We should rejoice that in Christ we are made to share in His glory. And the glory we have in Christ is a glory that should shine in us throughout all of our life.

In the Old Testament lesson today we read how Moses went up on Mt. Sinai

while the glory of the Lord covered that mountain. Moses did this on several occasions, and we are told that after one of his visits with God, Moses came down from the mountain and his face shone, reflecting the glory of the Lord. That reflected glory was so bright that he had to wear a veil so that the people could look at him. That is what should happen to all the people who have seen the glory of God in Christ. I do not mean that our skin has to shine, but we, who are heirs of glory through Christ should be reflecting the Lord's glory in us to others. The apostles gloried in the glorious Lord by their mission work in the early days of the church.

The glory they knew through Christ led them to serve Him even to the point of death. God has not yet called us to that kind of commitment. But He calls on us to show forth His glory as we try to imitate our glorious Lord in all we do and say.

Friends, as we strive to be obedient to our Father in heaven, as we seek to live as His faithful children in all things, we show that we are glorying in the glorious Lord, who has brought us to glory through His loving sacrifice on the cross. In the transfiguration of Christ, we see His true glory. And that glory is set before us so that we might know and believe in Him and in the glory that waits for us in heaven. But we are also given that glimpse of glory that it may shine in our lives as we live as His people. Peter says that Christ has appeared for our benefit, so that our faith and hope may be in God. And with hearts filled with faith and hope, let us glory in the glorious Lord who has saved us, as we show His glory to the whole world. Amen.

The peace of God that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds  
through Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior, amen