

THE PORTRAIT OF GOD: 2004 National Conference Message #9

The Heavens Declare: The Beauty of God

Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III

Sometimes we forget that God is the standard of true beauty. In this message, J. Ligon Duncan will remind us of God's beauty and seek to instill in us a renewed appreciation and love for the One who is truly beautiful.

1. The Definition or Meaning of the Beauty of the Lord

- a. A Summary Attribute: Means what? Not speaking of one component, but ALL of them together collated together
- b. Relate other summary attributes
 - i. God's Perfection: possesses all Excellency, lacks none. Closely related to Beauty, nothing more could be desired (Psalm 73)
 - ii. God's Blessedness: in all he does, but this is especially true for Him in Himself. Fullness of Joy. 1 Tim 1:11 Blessed God, 6:15 Blessed Sovereign. Needs/needed nothing. Not creation.
 - iii. God's Glory: importance, greatness, in nature and person, manifest in His Presence, honor, value. We don't contribute to it, we acknowledge what He already has and is.

2. Psalm 27 Witness to the Beauty of God

- a. Context of this Prayer (Ps. 26,27, 28 all concerned with house of the Lord 26 How enter Presence 27 who fear? 5 things? No 28)
 - i. 1-3 Shows us how live before God's greatness
 - ii. 4-6 David declares his priorities in Worship. Singular devotion to Lord in Psalm. The ONE thing he wants... knows he needs. Priority of God and His Grace!
- b. Application of the significance
 - i. Where would he see the goodness of the Lord? With God's people, presence of Lord with church.

3. Romans 11 Relates the Attribute of Beauty to the Glory of God

- a. Beauty of the Lord proclaimed in God's perfect ways.
 - i. Rm 9:1-4 I'll be cursed for my brethren
 - ii. Rom 9-11 No... God's election/reprobation. Sings Doxology
- b. The Glory of the Lord: from, through and to glory of God!
- c. Why did God make you and all things? For His own _____.

4. The Relationship between the Beauty of the Lord and Glory of the Lord

- a. Isaiah 52-53 Christ humbled and debased. No earthly beauty
- b. Another beauty... Phi 2:5 b/c servant and obedient death: Exalted.
- c. His incarnation, humiliation, crucifixion. Word became flesh and we beheld his Glory! Fulfilled in his suffering and death.
- d. Boldest witness to deity of Christ found in James 1 James (1/2 brother) a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- e. James not done 2:1 "do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Lord of glory**, with partiality." Equates Jesus with Almighty.