

# THE PORTRAIT OF GOD: 2004 National Conference Message #9

## The Heavens Declare: The Beauty of God

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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.