The Glory of Christ

Mark Twain was badly mistaken when he said, “Faith is believing what you know ain’t so.” Neither is faith a leap in the dark. Seeing is believing, so it is of the greatest importance that we see the glory of Christ (John 6:40; 12:36-46).

**1. The glory of Christ has been revealed**

A. In the miraculous *signs* of Jesus (37)

B. In the Father’s *words* through Jesus (47-50)

C. In the Old Testament *appearances* of Jesus (39-41)

Isaiah 6:1-10; John 1:18

**2. The glory of Christ may be concealed**

Blindness and unbelief—

A. Were *predicted* by Isaiah (38)

Isaiah 53:1ff

B. Were *inflicted* by Yahweh (39-40)

Isaiah 6:10 (quoted 5 times in the NT)

C. Are *corrected* by Yahweh

Psalm 146:8; Isaiah 35:4-5; John 9:39

**3. The glory of Christ must be confessed**

Some refuse to do this because—

A. They fear man’s *rejection* (42)

B. They love man’s *approval* (43)

(Note: The word translated praise or approval in v. 43 is the same as the word translated glory in v. 41.)

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. How did the Lord speak to you through the message? Did He put His finger on any habits or attitudes that you need to change? Did He encourage you regarding some difficulty, move you to undertake some new challenge, or open your heart to some truth you hadn’t seen before?

2. Does your faith conform to the biblical teaching about faith? Consider the following analysis of faith provided by R. C. Sproul.

The Protestant Reformers recognized that biblical faith has three essential aspects: *notitia*, *assensus*, and *fiducia*.

**Notitia.** *Notitia* refers to the content of faith, or those things that we believe. We place our faith in something, or more appropriately, someone. In order to believe, we must know something about that someone, who is the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Assensus.** *Assensus* is our conviction that the content of our faith is true. You can know about the Christian faith and yet believe that it is not true. Genuine faith says that the content — the *notitia* taught by Holy Scripture — is true.

**Fiducia.** *Fiducia* refers to personal trust and reliance. Knowing and believing the content of the Christian faith is not enough, for even demons can do that ([James 2:19](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/James%202.19)). Faith is only effectual if, knowing about and assenting to the claims of Jesus, one personally trusts in Him alone for salvation.

Do you *understand* the gospel of Christ? Do you ***see*** that Jesus Christ who died and rose again is the revealed glory of God? Do you *trust* Him and Him alone to save you?

3. How might the necessity of seeing Christ (2 Corinthians 4:3-6) change the way you pray for the unconverted?