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Meeting location
Marshall Middle School
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Pastor:
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*Declaring the greatness of God and serving
others for joy and His honor (II Cor. 4:5)*



May 30, 2000

Dear

Do you desire a stronger faith? Do you long to sin less and obey more? Do you want to love God and people with a sincere and fervent love? If you are a Christian you have answered each of these questions with an enthusiastic "Yes!" In his book, "The Glory of Christ", John Owen sets forth the chief means of obtaining what our heart desires, we must learn to fix our attention on the greatness of Christ by faith. Consider this quote:

"So if we desire strong faith and powerful love, which give us rest, peace and satisfaction, we must seek them by diligently beholding the glory of Christ by faith. In this duty I desire to live and to die. On Christ's glory I would fix all my thoughts and desires, and the more I see of the glory of Christ, the more the painted beauties of this world will wither in my eyes and I will be more and more dead to this world."

How do I "fix all my thoughts and desires" on the glory of Christ? He gives two things that we can do. First we must ask God to give us the desire and the ability to behold the greatness of Christ. We should pray as Paul prayed in Ephesians 1: 17-18 that God would give his Spirit to us and open our eyes that we might behold the glory of God in Christ. Second, we need to meditate on the glory of Christ as he is revealed in the Scriptures. Jesus himself said to the religious teachers of his day, "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me." (John 5:39). All the Scriptures reveal the greatness of Christ. We need to study and meditate upon them not as a religious duty that we hope will make God like us better but in order that we might see Jesus and be impressed with him there. Listen to what Owen says in this regard:

"There are, therefore, such revelations of the person and glory of Christ treasured up in the Scriptures...And it is in meditating on these divine revelations that much of the life of faith rests...The glory of Christ is the 'pearl of great price' which we should make every effort to find (Matt. 13:45-46). And the Scripture is the ocean into which we dive to discover this pearl...The glory of Scripture is that it is the great, indeed, the only outward means for us to know the glory of Christ."

Here is the reason that we put so much emphasis at River Hills upon the teaching of God's word on Sunday mornings. Here is the reason that every parent must make it her or his ambition to do all they can to teach the Bible to their children. Here is the reason that it is so necessary for each of us to give attention every day to reading and meditating upon the Bible. Here is the reason our Discovery Groups study the Bible together. If it is our desire to know and love Christ then we must give prayerful and careful attention to His word.

"We experience the power of his life in us only as our thoughts are filled with him and we continually delight in him. If, therefore, we would behold the glory of Christ, we must be filled with thoughts of Christ and his glory on all occasions and at all times. This is the mark of a true Christian."

Seeking to see,