

“IN JESUS there is every thing that can be desired ... he is ALTOGETHER LOVELY” (George Burrows)

"Christians, who are well acquainted with Christ themselves, should do ALL they can do make others acquainted with him!" (Matthew Henry)

### **Song of Solomon 5:16 —**

If a BRIDE in Song 5.16 speaks of the dazzling nature of her bridegroom, Solomon (a son of David), *how much more* can WE the BRIDE OF CHRIST speak of our great & dazzling Bridegroom, THE Son of David (Jesus Christ, the LORD).

The brilliance and brightness of Christ’s glory is so great that, should He now let forth the beams of glory upon his people—it would dazzle and astound them; it would strike them blind. Yes, it would strike them dead. (Thomas Vincent)

**THESIS — 10 ways that CHRIST, our Beloved, is Altogether Lovely & Wholly Desirable.**

## **I. EXCELLENT IN HIS DEITY.**

John Flavel: “As all the rivers are gathered into the ocean, which is the meeting-place of all the waters in the world, so Christ is that ocean in which all true delights and pleasures meet.”

## **II. EXCELLENT IN HIS COMPASSION.**

## **III. EXCELLENT IN HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**IV. EXCELLENT IN HIS PROPITIATION.**

“Here Christ is to the spouse and her friend glorious and beautiful; but to the world he is base and ignominious (foolish).” (Henry Ainsworth)

**V. EXCELLENT IN HIS REDEMPTION.**

“I shall live and adore Christ; glory to my Redeemer forever. Glory, glory dwelleth in Emmanuel’s land.” To his fellow ministers he said, “Dear brethren, do all for Christ. Pray for Christ. Preach for Christ. Beware of men-pleasing.” (the dying words of Samuel Rutherford)

**VI. EXCELLENT IN HIS PROTECTION.****VII. EXCELLENT IN HIS SWEETNESSES.**

“There is therefore heart attracting glory in the Lord Jesus Christ which , when discovered, subjects the heart to the Word, and makes us come to him” (John Bunyan).

“O THERE in Christ, is exceeding, unexpressible and unconceivable, delight and satisfaction to be found!” (James Durham)

"Heaven would be hell to me without Christ". I don't wanna go to heaven if CHRIST is not there!" (Thomas Goodwin)

**VIII. EXCELLENT IN HIS COMMUNION.**

**Song of Solomon 5:16 — “Our Glorious Christ: Altogether Lovely & Wholly Desirable!”**

“His excellency is such that beholding and enjoying it will yield a soul-satisfying delight. There will be more delight and pleasure in one hour than this world with all that it has can afford in seventy years.” (Jonathan Edwards)

## **IX. EXCELLENT IN HIS TENDERNESS.**

### **George Burrows helps us understand our glorious Christ:**

- ▶ "We come very far short of attaining FULL views of the blessedness of Jesus, by taking only one aspect or representation of him at a time, instead of combining in one view ALL that the Scriptures shadow forth of his glory. That is, at one time, we view him as a King, then as Almighty, then as a Lamb, then as Light, then as Eternal, then as Compassionate, then as Wrathful, then as Omniscient. This mode of unfolding his character is necessary and wise. BUT in studying his excellencies, let us NOT detach any one of them from the rest; Let us view them as a glorious COMBINATION FORMING TOGETHER ONE WHOLE. The KING crowned with many crowns is Jesus, but not the full development of the glory of Jesus.
- ▶ And all of these attributes and titles of Jesus in the Bible, however beautiful when viewed alone, are FAR MORE GRAND AND DEEP **when seen amid the cluster to which they belong!**
- ▶ In forming a conception of Jesus, let us bring together into ONE PERSON or individual all the detached representations given of him in the Scriptures -- Son of God, King of Kings, King crowned with many crowns, Judge on the great white throne, the Godhead coming with clouds, the Lamb leading his flock to living fountains, the glory of Zion, the tender friend weeping with his people in sorrow at the grave of Lazarus, the first-born from the dead, the elder brother of the saints! LET US GATHER ALL OF THEM INTO ONE --- so far as the mind is able to do this, and then we have something of what the Scriptures represent Jesus Christ as HE IS in glory.
- ▶ When we see the pictures and attributes of Christ independently, we see the glory of Christ. And when the heart has studied them separately, it is anxious to rise to the highest conceptions possible of Jesus, by bringing these clusters of Christ's glory ALL TOGETHER, but it finds its powers (faculties in our minds) to fail under the effort.

## **X. EXCELLENT IN HIS INFINITUDE.**

John Cotton is correct: “There is **nothing** to be **more** desired than Christ!”

**What are the APPLICATIONS of the loveliness of Christ for us?**

1. Let us **LOVE** him
2. Let us **DESIRE** him
3. Let us **WORSHIP** him
4. Let us **LEARN** him [study/indulge]
5. Let us **PROCLAIM** him
6. Let us **ENJOY** him
7. Let us **CONTEMPLATE** him
8. Let us **ENTERTAIN** him [he is a friend]

Lift up the hands that hang down; lift up the heart that is cast down. Look up, then, dejected soul; your Savior is before you! Open your eyes and look, look with the eye of faith. Can you not see a marvelous beauty in His countenance? Do you not perceive some smiles in His face, some smiles upon your soul? Do you not feel His Spirit sweetly breathing upon your heart, persuading you, and giving you a sweet sense of Christ's special love unto you? Do you not perceive some inward knockings at the door of your heart, and hear some inward callings? “Open to Me, and I will come in and sup with you.” This is the voice of your Beloved; make haste and open to Him. Open all the faculties of your soul; lift up the everlasting gates to this King of glory. Send forth the handmaids of your desires to invite the Lord in. Let your faith take hold on Him and usher Him into your soul; and then embrace Him in the arms of your dearest love and give Him such entertainment that He may abide with you forever!” [Thomas Vincent, from his sermon: “Christ's manifestation of himself to those who love him”]

9. Let us **GLORIFY** him [brag on him; boast in him; make HIM big/great]

**John Flavel:** If light [beauty, colors, sunsets/sunrises/moon, stars] be pleasant to our eyes, how pleasant is that light of life springing from the Sun of righteousness! Mal. 4:2. If a pardon be sweet to a condemned criminal, how sweet must the sprinkling the blood of Jesus be to the trembling conscience of a law-condemned sinner? If a rescue from a cruel king is sweet to a poor captive, how sweet must it be to the ears of enslaved sinners, to hear the voice of liberty and deliverance proclaimed by Jesus Christ? Out of the several offices of Christ, as out of so many fountains, all the promises of the new covenant flow, as so many soul-refreshing streams of peace and joy. All the promises of illumination, counsel and direction flow out of *Christ's prophetic office*. All the promises of reconciliation, peace, pardon, and acceptance flow out of *his priestly office*, with the sweet streams of joy and spiritual comforts which accompany it. All the promises of converting, increasing, defending, directing, and supplying grace, flow out of the *kingly office of Christ*; indeed, all promises may be reduced to these three offices, so that Jesus Christ must be altogether lovely in his offices.

**John Owen concluded an exposition of Song 5 (v.16) & concluded with these words...**

**‘he is all wholly to be desired, to be beloved;’—**

✓**Lovely** in his **person**,—in the glorious all-sufficiency of his Deity, gracious purity and holiness of his humanity, authority and majesty, love and power.

✓**Lovely** in his **birth** and **incarnation**; when he was rich, for our sakes becoming poor,—taking part of flesh and blood, because we partook of the same; being made of a woman, that for us he might be made under the law, even for our sakes.

**Song of Solomon 5:16 — "Our Glorious Christ: Altogether Lovely & Wholly Desirable!"**

✓**Lovely** in the **whole course of his life**, and the more than angelical holiness and obedience which, in the depth of poverty and persecution, he exercised therein;—doing good, receiving evil; blessing, and being cursed, reviled, reproached, all his days.

✓**Lovely** in his **death** ; yea, therein most lovely to sinners;—never more glorious and desirable than when he came broken, dead, from the cross. Then had he carried all our sins into a land of forgetfulness; then had he made peace and reconciliation for us; then had he procured life and immortality for us.

✓**Lovely** in his whole **purpose, pursuit & mission** in life = his employment, in his great undertaking,—in his life, death, resurrection, ascension; being a mediator between God and us, to recover the glory of God's justice, and to save our souls,— to bring us to an enjoyment of God, who were set at such an infinite distance from him by sin.

✓**Lovely** in the **glory** and **majesty** wherewith he is **crowned**. Now he is set down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; where, though he be terrible to his enemies, yet he is full of mercy, love, and compassion, towards his beloved ones.

✓**Lovely** in all those **supplies of grace** and **consolations**, in all the dispensations of his Holy Spirit, whereof his saints are made partakers.

✓**Lovely** in all the **tender care, power, and wisdom**, which he exercises in the **protection, safe-guarding**, and **delivery** of his church and people, in the midst of all the oppositions and persecutions whereunto they are exposed.

✓**Lovely** in all his **ordinances**, and the whole of that spiritually glorious worship which he hath appointed to his people, whereby they draw nigh and have communion with him and his Father.

✓**Lovely** and glorious in the **vengeance** he taketh, and will finally execute, upon the stubborn enemies of himself and his people.

✓**Lovely** in the **pardon** he hath purchased and doth dispense,—in the reconciliation he hath established,—in the grace he communicates,— in the consolations he doth administer,—in the peace and joy he gives his saints, —in his assured preservation of them unto glory.

Like **Samuel Rutherford** (*illustrating this*): "Put the beauty of 10,000 thousand worlds of paradises, like the Garden of Eden in one, put ALL trees, all flowers, all smells, all colors, all tastes, all joys, all loveliness, all sweetness in ONE. O what a fair & excellent thing that would be! And yet it would be less to that fair & dearest well-beloved CHRIST than one drop of rain to the whole seas, rivers, lakes, and foundations of 10,000 earths!"

**Owen concluded:** What shall I say? there is no end of his excellencies and desirableness;—"He is altogether lovely. This is our beloved, and this is our friend, O daughters of Jerusalem."

**Further Notes:**

**Song of Solomon 5:16 — “Our Glorious Christ: Altogether Lovely & Wholly Desirable!”**

### **A DESCRIPTION OF CHRIST THE BELOVED**

*Isaac Watts* [to the tune of: “Before the throne of God above”]

The wondering world inquires to know  
Why I should love my Jesus so;  
“What are his charms,” say they, “above  
The objects of a mortal love?”  
Yes, my Beloved to my sight  
Shows a sweet mixture, red and white:  
All human beauties, all divine,  
In my Beloved meet and shine.

Compassions in his heart are found,  
Hard by the signals of his wound;  
His sacred side no more shall bear  
The cruel scourge, the piercing spear.  
His hands are fairer to behold  
Than diamonds, set in rings of gold;  
Those heavenly hands that on the tree  
Were nailed, and torn, and bled for me.

White is his soul, from blemish free;  
Red with the blood he shed for me;  
The fairest of ten thousand fairs;  
A sun amongst ten thousand stars.  
His head the finest gold excels;  
There wisdom in perfection dwells;  
And glory, like a crown, adorns  
Those temples once beset with thorns.

His mouth, that poured out long complaints,  
Now smiles, and cheers his fainting saints;  
His countenance more graceful is  
Than Lebanon, with all its trees.  
All over glorious is my Lord;  
Must be beloved, and yet adored;  
His worth if all the nations knew,  
Sure the whole world would love him too!

### **ALL GLORY BE TO CHRIST**

Should nothing of our efforts stand  
No legacy survive  
Unless the Lord does raise the house  
In vain its builders strive  
To you who boast tomorrow’s gain  
Tell me what is your life  
A mist that vanishes at dawn  
All glory be to Christ!

Who is Himself our daily bread  
Praise Him the Lord of love  
Let living water satisfy  
The thirsty without price  
We’ll take a cup of kindness yet  
All glory be to Christ!

***All glory be to Christ our king!  
All glory be to Christ!  
His rule and reign will ever sing,  
All glory be to Christ!***

When on the day the great I Am  
The faithful and the true  
The Lamb who was for sinners slain  
Is making all things new.  
Behold our God shall live with us  
And be our steadfast light  
And we shall ere his people be  
All glory be to Christ!

His will be done His kingdom come  
On earth as is above

### **HE IS ALTOGETHER LOVELY** [Song 5:16]

*John Berridge* [To the tune of: “In Christ Alone”]

If gazing strangers want to know  
what makes me sing of Jesus so  
I love his name, tis very dear  
And would His loveliness declare  
His head abounds in wisdom deep  
No secret can his notice slip  
And sweet instruction he conveys  
to mend my heart and guide my  
ways

No sinful taint his bosom knows  
but with amazing kindness glows  
He wrought a righteousness  
divine  
And bids me take and call it mine!  
His eyes are full of melting love  
more soft and sparkling than the  
dove  
A single smile, from Jesus given  
Will lift a drooping soul to heaven

His open arms like rainbows  
stand  
and circle round a guilty land  
and in his side is dug a cave  
where all my guilt my find a grave  
his mercies like himself endure  
and like his love are ever sure  
And when your eye His worth  
can view  
Your heart, like mine, will love him  
too!