Combined Worship 14 December 2008

Title: "The Father loves the Son, and has given Him all things"

Text: John 3

(I) THE GLORY OF THE FATHER

1. Subtly hinted at in the word "Behold"

"...'Behold your God!' " Isaiah 40:9f

"Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him..." **Isaiah 40:10a**

"...Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him." Isaiah 40:10b

2. A Serious challenge to rediscover the Lord in the fullness of His glory

- a) A Personal God
- b) A Powerful God
- c) A Precious God who rewards those who come to Him in faith (Hebrews 11:6)

3. Sinful neglect of ancient Israel

- a) Neglect in cultivating knowledge
- b) Neglect in cultivating faith
- c) Neglect in cultivating relationship with God

(II) THE GLORY GIVEN TO THE SON

1. Prophesied

"Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles." **Isaiah 42:1**

- a) He would be a Servant but not without glory (Philippians 2:5-11)
- b) He would enjoy God's favour (delight)
- c) He would be given the Spirit of God
- d) He would wield tremendous authority

2. Proclaimed

"For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. The Father loves the Son, and has given Him all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life..." **John 3:33-36**

- a) Glory of being especially sent by God
- b) Glory of being God's messenger
- c) Glory of being gloriously filled by the Spirit of God
- d) Glory of being especially loved by the Father
- e) Glory of being given all authority
- f) Glory of being the Giver of everlasting life

(III) A GLIMPSE OF HOW JESUS UNDERSTOOD THE SUBJECT OF GLORY

1. Jesus' prayer

"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour?' But for this purpose I came to this hour.

'Father, glorify Your Name.'..." John 12:27-28a

2. The Father's reply

"Then a voice came from heaven, saying, 'I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.' "

John 12:28b

(IV) A CHALLENGE TO GIVE MUCH THOUGHT OF GLORIFYING JESUS

- 1. To add the element of giving glory to Jesus in our life
- 2. To consciously give glory to Jesus
- 3. To consistently practise giving glory to Jesus