

Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania Bible Studies June 2016
Study 3. Rev Dr. Sally Douglas

The ignition of Wisdom christology - encountering the Divine

A summary of some of the sources

John's Prologue 1.14, 16

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory...from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

Letter of 1 Clement

This letter is commonly thought to have been written by the church in Rome to the church in Corinth during the first century. It is considered to be one of the oldest Christian texts outside the Second Testament, alongside the *Didache*. In some sources *1 Clement* is recorded as canonical.

Woman Wisdom is written about at length in chapter 57 (quoting from Proverbs 1) and she is called 'All Virtuous'- God's name is also 'All Virtuous' in this letter.

1 Clement 36.1-2

This is the path, loved ones, in which we have found our salvation –
Jesus Christ,
the high priest of our offerings,
the benefactor who helps us in our weaknesses.
Through this one we gaze into the heights of the heavens;
through this one we see the reflection of his perfect and superior countenance;
through this one the eyes of our hearts have been opened;
through this one our foolish and darkened understanding springs up into the light;
through this one the Master has wished us to taste the knowledge of immortality.
He is the radiance of his magnificence,
as superior to the angels as he has inherited a more excellent name.

2 Corinthians 3.17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit is there's freedom. And all of us with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord the Spirit...

2 Corinthians 4.4-6

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said 'Let shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Didache

The *Didache* is an early church document that was written in the first century. Some scholars think it was written in 30's or 40's CE (making it extremely early!) and others date it to the 90's CE. Within this teaching manual are instructions for sharing in Eucharist that give thanks for the inner experience of the divine:

Didache 10.1-3

And when you have had enough to eat, you should give thanks as follows; 'We give thanks, holy Father for your holy name which you have made reside in our hearts, and for the knowledge, faith and immortality that you have made known to us through Jesus your child. To you be the glory forever. You, O Master Almighty, created all things for the sake of your name, and gave both food and drink to humans for their refreshment, that they might give thanks. And you graciously provided us with spiritual food and drink and eternal life through your child.'