

Spiritual Integrity

I Thess 2:1-6

Pt 3

For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. ² But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict. ³ For our exhortation *did not come* from error or uncleanness, nor *was it* in deceit.

⁴ But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. ⁵ For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness— God *is* witness. ⁶ Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

Introduction

The Westminster Shorter Catechism was completed in 1647 by the Westminster Assembly

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, [a] and to enjoy him for ever. [b]

Among the famous sayings of the Church fathers none is better known than Augustine's,

"Thou hast formed us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee."

The great saint states here in few words the origin and interior history of the human race. God made us for Himself: that is the only explanation that satisfies the heart of a thinking man, whatever his wild reason may say.

ISA. 43:1

- 43** But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel:
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called *you* by your name;
You *are* Mine.
- ² When you pass through the waters, I *will be* with you;
And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,
Nor shall the flame scorch you.
- ³ For I *am* the Lord your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I gave Egypt for your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in your place.
- ⁴ Since you were precious in My sight,
You have been honored,
And I have loved you;
Therefore I will give men for you,
And people for your life.

- 5 Fear not, for I *am* with you;
I will bring your descendants from the east,
And gather you from the west;
- 6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'
And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!'
Bring My sons from afar,
And My daughters from the ends of the earth—
- 7 Everyone who is called by My name,
Whom I have created for My glory;
I have formed him, yes, I have made him."

So it is not just Israel but we whom God created for his glory. This is why the New Testament again and again calls us to do all to the glory of God. "**Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).** "**Let your light so shine among men that they may see your good deeds and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Mt. 5:16).** This is not an admonition to do God a favor. It is a command to align our lives with his eternal goal. He created us for his glory. God's great aim in creating and governing the world is that he be glorified. "I created you for my glory. I formed you, I made you."
what is Glory

The glory of God is the beauty and excellence of his manifold perfections. It is an attempt to put into words what God is like in his magnificence and purity. It refers to his infinite and overflowing fullness of all that is good. The term might focus on his different attributes from time to time—like his power and wisdom and mercy and justice—because each one is indeed awesome and beautiful in its magnitude and quality. But in general God's glory is the perfect harmony of all his attributes into one infinitely beautiful and personal being.

what **Isaiah 43:7** means is that he created us to display his glory, that is, that his glory might be known and praised.

This becomes clearer as we page through Isaiah. **Isaiah 43:20–21** says, "I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise." **Isaiah 44:23** says, "Sing, O heavens for the Lord has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest and every tree in it! For the Lord has redeemed Jacob and will be glorified in Israel."

But **Isaiah 48:9–11** makes even clearer what it means for God to seek his own glory in creating and redeeming his people:

For My name's sake I defer my anger,
for the sake of My praise I restrain it for you,
that I may not cut you off.

Behold, I have refined you but not like silver;
I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.

For My own sake, for My own sake I do it,
for how should My name be profaned?

My glory I will not give to another.

"What an amazing text this is! How wonderfully un-modern and anti-20th-century this text is! How ugly and repulsive it must appear to the god of this age, the prince of the power of the air. But how sweet, how clean and high and bright and full of allurements to those who really love God above all else." John Piper

What a world apart is **Isaiah 48:9–11**, and even more so

Ezekiel 36:21–32. Parts of this text are very familiar promises of the New Covenant, but O, how we need to read what comes

before and after these promises, lest we lose the biblical perspective of our salvation.

(2) ²¹ But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went.

²² “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name’s sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. ²³ And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I *am* the Lord,” says the Lord God, “when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. ²⁴ For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.

(1) ²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. ²⁸ Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. ³⁰ And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never

again bear the reproach of famine among the nations. ³¹ Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that *were* not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations. ³² Not for your sake do I do *this*,” says the Lord God, “let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!”

I. Our Boldness

¹ For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. ² But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

II. Our Purity

³ For our exhortation *did* not *come* from error or uncleanness, nor *was it* in deceit.

III. Our Trustworthiness

⁴ But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

IV. Our Motivation

⁵ For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, **nor a cloak for covetousness**—God *is* witness.

V. Our Glory

⁶ Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others,
when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

Paul is not saying he never received honor from men or that he had no right to receive it, but he does deny that he required such a reaction from those to whom he preached the gospel. In short, not only were they not motivated by money, neither were they motivated by a desire for praise from men. As noted in the last two verses of this chapter, Paul's focus was not on present glory but future glory of the converts in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming. ([1Th 2:19](#), [20-notes](#))

Hiebert rightly notes that...

There is the constant possibility that the preacher may use his preaching ministry as a means of building up public esteem for himself rather than conveying God's message to men. (Hiebert, D. Edmond: 1 & 2 Thessalonians: BMH Book. 1996)

Two areas that are often at the root of Preachers,
Pastors, or Servants of God that serve for the wrong
Reasons

With out Spiritual Integrity

Both of these are under the Banner of:

v. 6 when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

Paul is saying, although the office itself deserves support and respect and reverence, I did not use the office for my own personal gain.

Apostles are the foundation of the Church.

Paul witnessed the resurrected Christ.

Was divinely ordained into the ministry.

Made to be an Apostle to the Gentiles.

Given the unique privilege of writing 13 of the new Testament books.

Bruce goes on to comment that this passage refers to the right which preachers of the gospel had, according to Paul, to be maintained by their converts and others to whose spiritual welfare they ministered a right which Paul chose not to exercise (cf. [2Thes 3:7](#), [8](#), [9](#); [1Cor 9:3-18](#); [2Cor 11:7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#), [11](#)). This right (as Paul points out in [1Cor 9:14](#)) was conferred by Jesus on those whom he sent out on a preaching and healing mission in his name in the course of his Galilean ministry ([Mk 6:7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#), [11](#), [12](#), [13](#); [Mt 10:5-15](#); [Lk 9:1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#); [10:1-12](#)): the laborer, he said to them, deserves his pay ([Lk 10:7](#)) or his food [Mt 10:10](#)). Paul took the Lord's

2 areas are : MONEY AND MAJESTY

1. Money

nor a cloak for covetousness—

cloak

prophasis: a pretense

Original Word: πρόφασις, εως, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: prophasis

Phonetic Spelling: (prof'-as-is)

Short Definition: a pretext, an excuse

Definition: a pretext, an excuse.

- a. **a pretext** (alleged reason, pretended cause): **τῆς πλεονεξίας**, such as covetousness is accustomed to use, **1 Thessalonians 2:5** ((A. V. **cloak of covetousness**) the meaning being, that he had never misused his apostolic office in order to disguise or to hide avaricious designs)

Word Origin

from **pro** and **phainó**

phainó: to bring to light, to cause to appear

Original Word: φαίνω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: phainó

Phonetic Spelling: (fah'-ee-no)

Short Definition: I shine, appear, seem

Definition: (a) act: I shine, shed light, (b) pass: I shine, become visible, appear, (c) I become clear, appear, seem, show myself as.

covetousness

pleonexia: advantage, covetousness

Original Word: πλεονεξία, ας, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: pleonexia

Phonetic Spelling: (pleh-on-ex-ee'-ah)

Short Definition: covetousness, avarice

Definition: covetousness, avarice, aggression, desire for advantage.

HELPS Word-studies

4124 *pleoneksía* (a feminine noun derived from **4119** */pleíōn*, "numerically more" and **2192** */éxō*, "have") – properly, the desire for *more (things)*, i.e. lusting for a greater number of temporal things that go beyond what God determines is eternally best (*beyond* His preferred-will, cf. **2307** */thélēma*); *covetousness* (coveting).

Paul is saying he never used his Apostleship as a mask, of a covering, or excuse to get more and more, or demand from the people more and more. The Covetousness does not just have to be money, it can be position, prestige, respect ... i.e.....

here are uses of **prophasis** in the NT...

Matthew 23:14 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows' houses, even while for a **pretense** you make long prayers; therefore you shall receive greater condemnation.

Mark 12:40 who (referring to the Scribes) devour widows' houses, and **for appearance's sake** offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation. (**Comment:** The hypocritical scribes looked good outwardly but this was only a sham and a cover for their internal greed and selfishness)

Acts 27:30 And as the sailors were trying to escape from the ship, and had let down the ship's boat into the sea, on the **pretense** of intending to lay out anchors from the bow,

Philippians 1:18 (note) What then? Only that in every way, whether in **pretense** or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.

Hampton Keathley asks...

I wonder how many of the problems and heartaches going on in the church are rooted in this problem, the problem of people using ministry of all sorts to promote themselves and meet their own needs and wants whether financial or emotional. It is the problem of hidden agendas. (1Thessalonians 2:1-12 Compelling Example for Ministry)

Greed is what you desire and what you desire more of becomes your "god" and you end up serving (latreuo) that "god." In God's sight, greed is worshipping the god mammon, and "you cannot serve God and mammon" (see **note Matthew 6:24**)

Thomas writes that

Pleonexia is self-seeking of all types, a quest for anything that brings self-satisfaction. It grows out of complete disinterest in the rights of others - an attitude foreign to Paul and his helpers.

Calvin rightly observes that...

Where greed and ambition hold sway, innumerable corruptions follow, and the whole man turns to vanity. These are the two sources from which stems the corruption of the whole of the ministry.

Adam Clarke warns...

Hear this, ye that preach the Gospel! Can ye call God to witness that in preaching it ye have no end in view by your ministry but his glory in the salvation of souls? Or do ye enter into the priesthood for a morsel of bread, or for what is ominously and impiously called a living, a benefice?...Is God witness that, in all these things, ye have no cloak of covetousness? . . . But woe to that man who enters into the labour for the sake of the hire! he knows not Christ; and how can he preach him?"

Barclay has an interesting historical comment writing that... The first Christian book of order is called **The Didache**, The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, and in it there are some illuminating instructions. "Let every apostles that cometh unto you be received as the Lord. And he shall stay one day and, if need be, the next also, but if he stay three days he is a false prophet. And when the apostle goeth forth, let him take nothing save bread, till he reach his lodging. But if he ask money, he is a false prophet."

Isa 56:11-12

- ¹¹ Yes, *they are* greedy dogs
Which never have enough.
And they *are* shepherds
Who cannot understand;
They all look to their own way,
Every one for his own gain,
From his *own* territory.
- ¹² "Come," *one says*, "I will bring wine,
And we will fill ourselves with intoxicating drink;
Tomorrow will be as today,
And much more abundant."

Jer 6:13

- ¹³ “Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them,
Everyone *is* given to covetousness;
And from the prophet even to the priest,
Everyone deals falsely.
- ¹⁴ They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly,
Saying, ‘Peace, peace!’
When *there is* no peace.

Rom 16:18

- ¹⁸ For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. ¹

2 Cor 2:17

- ¹⁷ For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

2 Cor 4:2

- ² But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.

2 Cor 7:2

- ² Open *your hearts* to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one.

2 Cor 12:17

- ¹⁷ Did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I sent to you? ¹⁸ I urged Titus, and sent our brother with *him*. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did *we* not *walk* in the same steps?

¹⁹ Again, do you think that we excuse ourselves to you? We speak before God in Christ. But *we do* all things, beloved, for your edification.

I Timothy 3:3

³ not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;

I Peter 5:2

² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly

The richest televangelists

1. **Benny Hinn**—Benny Hinn is known around the world for his large healing crusades. His television show airs in more than 200 countries, and during his time as an evangelist, Hinn claims to have seen people get healed from cancer and crippling diseases, and [he even says he has seen a dead man resurrected](#).

While building his following, Hinn has earned quite a bit of money along the way. His ministry collects more than \$200 million a year, and he's admitted to his salary being over half a million. Hinn owns a private jet, lives in a \$10 million house near the Pacific Ocean, stays in hotel rooms that cost thousands each night, and owns luxury vehicles. His lavish lifestyle was first [exposed by Dateline NBC](#), and it's now under investigation by the Senate.

2. **Joyce Meyer**—Since 1999, Joyce Meyer's ministry has spent at least \$4 million on 5 homes for Meyer and her children. Meyer's house is a

10,000 square foot home with an 8-car garage, a large fountain, a gazebo, a private putting green, a pool, and pool house with a new \$10,000 bathroom. Her salary was reported at \$900,000 back in 2003, and she also enjoys use of a private jet and luxury cars. Needless to say, Meyer has been questioned for years, and she is once again under investigation by the government for possibly violating nonprofit laws.

3. **Kenneth Copeland**—Despite being under investigation, Kenneth Copeland refused to submit financial information about his ministry, saying “You can go get a subpoena, and I won’t give it to you. It’s not yours, it’s God’s and you’re not going to get it and that’s something I’ll go to prison over. So, just get over it.”

Copeland lives in a mansion that some have said is “the size of a hotel.” He also has acquired a \$20 million Cessna Citation private jet for flying around the country to spread the word. And of course, he owns an airport for landing said airplane.

4. **Creflo Dollar**—Creflo Dollar was another [televangelist who ignored the Senate’s request for probes](#) into financial records. Dollar claimed he was concerned about the privacy of his donors, and he said that if the IRS requested it, he would send it over. However, since it was Congress asking for the information, he wouldn’t do so without a subpoena. [His church made \\$69 million](#) back in 2006, and the church also provided him with a Rolls Royce. In Dollar’s words “Just because it (my life) is excessive doesn’t necessarily mean it’s wrong.”

5. **Eddie Long**—[According to Eddie Long](#), Jesus wasn’t broke, and leaders of churches shouldn’t be either. Long has earned millions in salary from his ministry, owns a million dollar home on a 20-acre lot, has use of a \$350,000 Bentley, and pulls in a host of other benefits too. Long was also in the group of televangelists who refused to give the Senate the information requested of the ministry. Senatore Grassley, the leader of this investigation, said “When I hear about leaders of charities being provided a \$300,000 Bentley to drive around in, my fear is that it’s the taxpayers who subsidize this charity who are really being taken for a ride.”

6. **Randy and Paula White**—The White’s ministry brings in millions each year, and they own million dollar homes across the country (including in Trump Tower). The couple has been under [constant scrutiny for mismanagement of church funds](#), and they recently got divorced, further complicating matters for the ministry. At last check, they also failed to provide the Senate with all requested records.

Cited from: [6 Outrageously Wealthy Preachers Under Federal Investigation - NakedLaw by Avvo.com](http://nakedlaw.avvo.com/money/6-outrageously-wealthy-preachers-under-federal-investigation.html#ixzz3No8yaIDU) <http://nakedlaw.avvo.com/money/6-outrageously-wealthy-preachers-under-federal-investigation.html#ixzz3No8yaIDU>

Pastor Steven Furtick from Elevation Church who just built a multimillion dollar mansion.

Jan Crouch from TBN who has a 50 Million dollar jet, 13 mansions, and a [\\$100,000 mobile home for her dogs](#).

Read more: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/formerlyfundie/rich-pastors-peoples-stupidity/#ixzz3No9eZNyQ>

Forbes recently came up with [a list of the top ten richest pastors in the world](#). It includes such TV evangelists as Bishop TD Jakes (estimated worth £93 million), Bishop David Oyedepo (£93 million), Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, Matthew Ahimolowo of KICC, Joseph Prince, and the wonderfully implausibly named Creflo Dollar

It is deeply sad that five of the top 10 are from Nigeria, where the poor are being fleeced by those who use Christianity as a get-rich-quick scheme. Oyedepo, nicknamed the Pastorpreneur, owns his own private jets and has homes in the UK and the US. His British church received £16.7 million in donations after

followers were allegedly told that God would give them riches in return.

LUKE 12:15-21,29-31

¹⁵ And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.” ’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

²¹ “So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

²⁹ “And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. ³⁰ For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. ³¹ But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

2. Majesty

⁶ Nor did we **seek** glory from men, either from you or from others

Seek—- P.A.Pt

zétéó: to seek

Original Word: ζητέω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: zétéó

Phonetic Spelling: (dzay-teh'-o)

Short Definition: I seek, search for, desire

Definition: I seek, search for, desire, require, demand.

HELPS Word-studies

2212 zētéō – properly, to seek by *inquiring*; to investigate to reach a *binding (terminal)* resolution; to search, "getting to the bottom of a matter."

Glory (1391) (**doxa** from **dokeo** = to think or have an opinion, especially a favorable one) is the condition of being bright or shining can refer to the greatness or splendor of man (as in this verse) which is based on human opinion which is shifty, uncertain and often based on error. On the other hand, there is a glory of God which is absolutely true and changeless.

doxa: opinion (always good in N.T.), hence praise, honor, glory

Original Word: δόξα, ης, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: doxa

Phonetic Spelling: (dox'-ah)

Short Definition: honor, renown, glory splendor

Definition: honor, renown; glory, an especially divine quality, the unspoken manifestation of God, splendor.

HELPS Word-studies

1391 dóksa (from *dokeō*, "exercising *personal opinion* which determines *value*") – *glory*. **1391 /dóksa** ("glory") corresponds to the OT word, *kabo*

(OT 3519, "to be *heavy*"). Both terms convey *God's infinite, intrinsic worth* (substance, essence).

[1391 (*dóksa*) literally means "what evokes *good opinion*, i.e. that something has *inherent, intrinsic worth*" (J. Thayer).]

We are reminded of **Nebuchadnezzar's** desire for glory in Daniel 4...

The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the **glory** of my majesty?' While the word was in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you' ([Dan 4:30-31](#))

John 12:42

⁴² Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *Him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Gal 1:10

¹⁰ For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

The **Psalmist** gives good advice...

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Thy name give glory because of Thy lovingkindness, because of Thy truth.
([Ps 115:1](#))

