

Subject: *Glorifying God*

Scripture: *1 Timothy 1:15-17*

As Paul describes his own salvation, he thinks of God's gracious plan in sending Jesus Christ to save all sinners. He thinks of the mercy he received and God's patience (all longsuffering) that was shown to him as a pattern for others. We have all received God's mercy and we all have been blessed by God's patience. As he thinks of these marvelous truths he concludes with a word of praise in verse 17. God deserves all honor and glory for who He is and what He has done both now and forever. Amen.

Jonathan Edwards wrote: "It appears that all that is ever spoken of in the scripture as the ultimate end of God's works is included in that one phrase, *the glory of God.*" The glory of God is the sum total of all He is and all He does.

GOD REVEALS HIS GLORY TO US

Moses asked God the greatest request that anyone ever asked in **Exodus 33:18** *And he said, I beseech thee, show me thy glory.* God reveals His glory if we only have eyes the see it and appreciate it.

God reveals His glory in creation

Psalms 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.*

Colossians 1:16 *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.* All creatures reflect the glory of their Creator. When you see a beautiful painting or building it is a reflection of the painter or designer.

This is a glory for all people to see. **Isaiah 6:3** *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.* Whenever we fail to recognize who God is and to glorify Him as He is, we are guilty of the worst kind of sin.

Romans 1:20-21²⁰ *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*²¹ *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

God reveals His glory in Christ

John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

John 14:7-9⁷ *If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.*⁸ *Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.*⁹ *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?*

Colossians 2:9 *For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*

Hebrews 1:3 *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

GOD REFLECTS HIS GLORY THROUGH US

God's glory is revealed in Himself and nothing can ever change that. But God is also glorified through His people. This is glory that belongs to Him but is seen through us. Think of it like this. The sun has a glory of its own (like God), but the moon reflects the glory of the sun (like us). When we see the glory of the moon we are seeing a reflection of the sun. The moon shines brightest when it is really dark. In the same way, the darker it gets in this world the brighter we shine and the more we reveal the glory of God in our lives.

God reflects His glory through our redemption

In the beginning Adam and Eve reflected God's glory. They were made in the image of God. But sin ruined and marred that perfect image, and God set a plan in motion to restore that image in man again. That was God's plan of redemption. The Father planned it. Jesus paid for it. And the Holy Spirit applies it to each person who is redeemed.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ¹⁹ *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?* ²⁰ *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.* God first revealed His glory in the tabernacle, then later in the temple. Now He reveals His glory in another kind of temple, the body of every believer. God's glory is on display in His temple. In the Old Testament God had a temple for His people, but now He has a people for His temple. When Paul wrote letters to the church in the wicked city of Corinth he was not concerned about getting believers out of Corinth. He was concerned about getting Corinth out of them. We are in the world, but not of the world.

God reflects His glory through our sanctification

To be sanctified means to be set apart for God and His purpose. When Moses met with God on Mount Sinai, he received the Ten Commandments and the instructions for the tabernacle and how God wanted the people to worship Him. When Moses came down from the mountain his face had a glow on it. The people knew that he had been in the very presence of God. Something like that happens in the lives of Christians, only it is not a physical glow on our face; it is a change in our life. We are becoming more and more like Christ in our character and our daily life.

2 Corinthians 3:18 *But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

God reflects His glory through our service

As we serve God we don't do it for praise or for our own glory. We do it for Him and His glory. **Matthew 5:16** *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.* **1 Peter 4:11** *If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

God reflects His glory through our entire life

1 Corinthians 10:31 *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

Whenever we make choices about doing something that may be questionable we often ask, “Is anything wrong with this?” That’s the wrong question. Instead of asking what’s wrong with it, we need to ask, “What’s right with it? Will this choice or this activity bring glory to God?” Can I do this or go there and know that God will be glorified in it?

We normally divide our lives into the secular and the sacred. For believers all things in life are sacred. Everything we do and everywhere we go is sacred because we are children of God and we represent Him. A. W. Tozer said, “It is not what a man does that determines whether his work is sacred or secular, but why he does it.”

Just think of the opportunities we have to glorify God: in our worship services, in our daily devotional time, in our work, in our schools, in our homes, in our free time; in other words, in all we do. Edward Payson said: “We were created and redeemed for the sole purpose of praising and glorifying our Creator.” One of the greatest documents in the history of the Christian church is the Westminster Catechism which begins: What is the chief end of man? Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.”

Is your life truly reflecting the glory of God? Is your life bringing glory to Him? Are you redeemed, sanctified, and serving God? Is God glorified in every part of your daily life? Is there anything you need to start doing or is there anything you need to stop doing to bring God the glory He deserves? This is the reason you are alive in this world—to glorify God.