

GLIMPSES OF GOD'S GLORY - PART TWO

John 1:14

(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."

NOTE: Because this sermon was so long, it was necessary to break it into two parts. The entire outline is provided in advance so the entire picture can be seen as a whole. This is part two of the message and begins at the point indicated in the outline below.

I. GLIMPSES OF PAST GLORY

- #1. GLIMPSES OF GOD'S GLORY FROM THE O.T.
- #2. GLIMPSES OF GOD'S GLORY FROM THE N.T.

II. GLIMPSES OF PRESENT GLORY

- #1. GOD'S GLORY IS MANIFEST THROUGH CREATION
- #2. GOD'S GLORY IS MANIFEST THROUGH THE GOSPEL

----- THIS SERMON BEGINS FOLLOWING THIS POINT -----

- #3. GOD'S GLORY IS MANIFEST THROUGH HIS CHILDREN

FIVE WAYS GOD'S CHILDREN CAN GLORIFY GOD:

[#1]. BE **TRANSFORMED**

[#2]. **PRAISE** GOD and **DECLARE** HIS GLORY

[#3]. BEAR **GODLY FRUIT**

[#4]. **PERSEVERE** IN YOUR FAITH

[#5]. **CONFESS SIN**

III. GLIMPSES OF FUTURE GLORY

- #1. HIS **RETURN** WILL BE GLORIOUS

#2. HEAVEN WILL BE GLORIOUS

#3. THE SAINTS WILL BE GLORIFIED



In the previous message on *GLIMPSES OF GOD'S GLORY* we were talking about ways God manifests His glory in *THE PRESENT TENSE*. Two ways already presented were:

#1. GLORY IS MANIFEST THROUGH GOD'S CREATION

#2. GLORY IS MANIFEST THROUGH THE GOSPEL

GOD MANIFESTS HIS GLORY IN A THIRD WAY IN THE PRESENT TENSE:

#3. THROUGH HIS CHILDREN

God's glory was manifest in a special way through the **O.T. TEMPLE**. GOD'S GLORY WAS **AGAIN MANIFEST** IN A SPECIAL WAY when **JESUS TABERNACLED** among us in N.T. days. Jesus was God **PITCHING HIS TENT** among us in human flesh manifesting His glory. The Bible speaks of **TEMPLES OF GOD** that followed the days of Jesus. Those temples are to manifest God's glory in this world in the *present tense*.

- **(1 Cor 6:19-20)**, "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."
- **(John 17:22)**, "And the **GLORY** which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:"

BEFORE CONSIDERING how we are to glorify God through our body and spirit, **THINK OVER** some statements Jesus made regarding glory given to Him.

- **(John 8:50)**, "And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth."
- **(John 8:54)**, "Jesus answered, If I **honor** myself, my **honor** is nothing: it is my Father that **honoreth** me; of whom ye say,

that he is your God:"

S The word for honor is **DOXAZO** (dox-ad'-zo) and means glorify, honor, magnify.

S **(John 8:54 NIV)**, “. . . If I **glorify** myself, my **glory** means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who **glorifies** me."

S **IT IS INTERESTING** that Jesus clearly stated that He did not glorify Himself.

- **QUESTION — IF JESUS DID NOT GLORIFY HIMSELF**, then who do we think we are when we try to bring glory to ourselves? **OUR RESPONSIBILITY** is not to bring glory to **us**, or to our **church**, or to our **families**. Our responsibility is to reflect glory that belongs to God. **WHEN WE BEGIN TO SEEK GLORY** so that we might impress others, is the moment we begin down the **TRAIL BLAZED** by ADAM AND EVE when they ate the forbidden fruit.
- **THE ACCOUNTS OF THE SINS OF HUMANITY** are **REPORTS** of **people seeking glory for themselves**, rather than seeking glory for God.
- **OUR GOAL** ought to be that the world experience God's glory. **GOD ALONE** possesses true glory.
(Psa 115:1 NIV), "Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the **GLORY**, because of your love and faithfulness."

CONSIDER **FIVE WAYS** BELIEVERS CAN BRING GLORY TO GOD:

[#1]. WE REFLECT GOD'S GLORY THROUGH BEING TRANSFORMED

IT IS INTERESTING HOW THIS WORKS:

S **(2 Cor 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."

(2 Cor 3:18 NIV), "And we, who with **UNVEILED FACES** all **REFLECT THE LORD'S GLORY**, are being **TRANSFORMED** into his likeness with **EVER-INCREASING**

GLORY, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

S KJV - "**ARE CHANGED**"

NIV - "**ARE BEING TRANSFORMED**"

- "**METAMORPHOO**" (met-am-or-of'-o)
- From this Greek word is derived the English **METAMORPHOSES**. That is the word used to describe a **CATERPILLAR** becoming a **BUTTERFLY**; a **TADPOLE** becoming a **FROG**.

S WE TEND TO **BECOME LIKE** those persons we **BEHOLD**. The person **WHOSE HERO IS A MOVIE STAR**, is the person who **dresses, thinks, talks** and **acts** like the movie star. The person whose hero is an **ATHLETE**, is a person who eats, sleeps and drinks sports. The person whose hero is a **PRO FOOTBALL PLAYER** is the person who **walks** and **talks** football. He probably **watches** football on T.V. We become like the persons we *BEHOLD*.

S WHEN THE **LORD GOD** BECOMES OUR GAZE, WHEN GOD IS OUR **HERO**, we begin to **dress** the way He wants us to dress; **talk** the way He wants us to talk; **think** the way He wants us to think. In short, WE BEGIN TO BE **TRANSFORMED** into His image. We are **CHANGED FROM GLORY UNTO GLORY**. We become more like God wants us to be with the passing of time.

S How do we *BEHOLD THE LORD*? We study **His Word** daily. We fellowship with **His people**. We place **God in the forefront** of all that we *behold*.

[#1]. THROUGH BEING TRANSFORMED

[#2]. WE REFLECT GOD'S GLORY THROUGH PRAISE OF GOD and DECLARATION OF HIS GLORY

LISTEN TO FOUR VERSES OUT OF MANY POSSIBLE:
(**Psa 96:3 NIV**), "**DECLARE HIS GLORY** among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples."

(**Psa 29:2 NIV**), "**ASCRIBE TO THE LORD THE GLORY** due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness."
("ascribe" means "give")

(Psa 148:13), "Let them **PRAISE** the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; **HIS GLORY** is above the earth and heaven."

(Psa 66:2 NIV), "**SING THE GLORY OF HIS NAME; MAKE HIS PRAISE GLORIOUS!**"

S We ought to **AUDIBLY PRAISE** GOD. We ought to **SPEAK THE GLORY OF GOD**. We ought to **SING TO THE GLORY OF GOD**. We ought to give to God the glory that is due His Name.

S **THE REASON** the world has **such a hard time** declaring the glory of God, is it is so busy declaring its own glory there is no place left for God. Praising God is difficult when man has taken the center stage of self glory. Glory belongs to God alone.

JOHN PIPER

"You can't praise what you do not prize. Or to put it another way, God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him . . . Sin is what you do when your heart is not satisfied with God" (*Future Grace*, pg. 9).

When God is our satisfaction; when God is our prize, God will become our praise. **When we praise Him, we glorify Him.**

[#1]. **THROUGH BEING TRANSFORMED**

[#2]. **THROUGH PRAISE & DECLARATION**

[#3]. WE REFLECT GOD'S GLORY THROUGH BEARING GODLY FRUIT

(John 15:8), "Herein is **MY FATHER GLORIFIED**, THAT YE BEAR MUCH FRUIT; so shall ye be my disciples."

THERE ARE AT LEAST **TWO KINDS OF FRUIT**

1) THE FRUIT OF **THE LOST COMING TO CHRIST**

2) THE FRUIT OF **CHRISTIAN CHARACTER** (*Gal 5:22-23*)

- **(Mat 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 Cor 10:31)**, "So whether you **EAT** or **DRINK** or whatever you do, **DO IT ALL FOR THE GLORY** of God."

S SOME FOLKS INTENTIONALLY PUSH THE LIMITS OF GOD'S WILL. Their goal is to get as close to sin as they can without sinning. They ask, "How far can I go and still be right with God?" That attitude of life is so contrary to Scripture. **OUR GOAL OUGHT TO BE, "HOW CAN I GLORIFY GOD?"** We ought to ask, "Is what I am about to do going to bring glory to God?"

S SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS WE CAN ASK ARE:

- Does the way I **TALK** glorify God?
- Does the way I **DRESS** glorify God?
- Do the **MOVIES I WATCH** glorify God?
- Do the **PLACES I GO** glorify God?
- Do the **BOOKS I READ** glorify God?
- Does the **OCCUPATION** I maintain glorify God?

S A GROUP OF TEENAGERS were enjoying a party, when someone suggested that they go to a certain restaurant for a good time.

"I'd rather you took me home," Jan said to her date. "My parents don't approve of that place."

"Afraid your father will hurt you?" one of the girls asked sarcastically.

"No," Jan replied, "I'm not afraid my father will hurt me, but **I AM AFRAID I MIGHT HURT HIM.**"

[#1]. **THROUGH BEING TRANSFORMED**

[#2]. **THROUGH PRAISE**

[#3]. **THROUGH BEARING GODLY FRUIT**

[#4]. WE REFLECT GOD'S GLORY THROUGH PERSEVERANCE OF FAITH

S (1 Pet 1:7), "These have come so that **your faith**--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though **refined by fire**--may be proved genuine and **MAY RESULT IN** praise, **GLORY** and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

S CONSIDER THE SAINTS that stand out in **CHRISTIAN HISTORY**. One reason they **ARE NOTABLE IS BECAUSE**

they refused to quit giving glory to God under great stress. The examples are many:

- **JOB**
- **SHADRACH, MESHACH & ABEDNEGO**
- **JOHN BUNYAN**
- **CORRIE TEN BOOM**
- **ETC.** (The fact they never gave up brought great glory to God.)

[#1]. **THROUGH BEING TRANSFORMED**

[#2]. **THROUGH PRAISE**

[#3]. **THROUGH BEARING GODLY FRUIT**

[#4]. **THROUGH PERSEVERANCE OF FAITH**

[#5]. REFLECT GOD'S GLORY THROUGH CONFESSION OF SIN

- **JOSHUA SAID TO ACHAN AFTER HE HAD SINNED:**
(**Josh 7:19**), “. . . My son, **GIVE**, I pray thee, **GLORY TO THE LORD** God of Israel, and **MAKE CONFESSION** unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me.”
- **HOW** does confession bring glory to God? **JUST SUPPOSE** the citizens of America fell on their faces and confessed their sins to God as **NINEVEH** did in the days of Jonah. Would that bring glory to God? Suppose **ONE PRODIGAL SON** came home and said to his father, “I have sinned against heaven” (Luke 15:21), would that bring glory to God? Absolutely it would!
- Would to God we would see **2 CHRON. 7:14** carried out on a massive scale throughout the churches in our land. God would be greatly honored.
- By the way, when we confess our sins, God has some wonderful promises in store. Consider **1 John 1:9**

I. GLIMPSES OF PAST GLORY

II. GLIMPSES OF PRESENT GLORY

III. GLIMPSES OF FUTURE GLORY

#1. HIS RETURN WILL BE GLORIOUS

- S (**Luke 21:27**), "At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud **WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY.**"
- S (**Mat 24:27**), "For as the **LIGHTNING** cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Lightning comes in a brilliant flash of glory.)
- S **REVELATION 19** DESCRIBES THE GLORIOUS MANNER IN WHICH JESUS WILL RETURN.

#2. HEAVEN WILL BE GLORIOUS

- S ONE NAME FOR HEAVEN IS **GLORY**.
(**Col 3:4**), "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."
- S **THE NEW JERUSALEM** was almost beyond description for John.
- (**Rev 21:11**), "It **SHONE** with the **GLORY OF GOD**, and its **BRILLIANCE** was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear **AS CRYSTAL.**"
 - (**Rev 21:23**), "The city does **NOT NEED THE SUN** or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp."
- S (**Hab 2:14**), "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the **LORD**, as the waters cover the sea."
- S **THE RADIO ANNOUNCER** for the *SEATTLE MARINERS* baseball team has a great way of expressing his amazement when something wonderful happens. When someone hits an amazing home run, he says, "**MY, O MY.**" Some day when we see the place God calls **GLORY**, I think we will stand in awe and say, "**MY, O MY.**" We will wonder why we tried so hard to delay our departure from earth.

#3. THE SAINTS WILL BE GLORIFIED

- S Twice **ROMANS 8** states that God's children will be **GLORIFIED** (Rom 8:17; 8:29-30).
- "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive **THE CROWN OF GLORY** that will never fade away"

(1 Pet 5:4).

- “Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an **ETERNAL GLORY** that far outweighs them all” (2 Cor 4:17).
- “I consider that OUR PRESENT SUFFERINGS are **NOT WORTH COMPARING WITH THE GLORY** that will be revealed in us” (Rom 8:18).
- (1 John 3:2-3), “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM**; for we shall see him as he is. {3} And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”

S THERE WILL BE ABOUT GOD’S CHILDREN A *GLORY*.

It will not be our glory. It will be a glory that comes because we are in the presence of the King of Glory.

UNTIL THEN, WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

- 1). POINT PEOPLE TO GOD’S **SALVATION**
(Phil 2:11), “and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- 2) LET GOD CHANGE US FROM *GLORY UNTO GLORY* BY **BEHOLDING** GOD’S GLORY. Make God the central focus of our life.
- 3) **PRAISE HIM** (Declare His glory)
- 4) **BEAR GODLY FRUIT** (Matt 5:16)
- 5) **PERSEVERE** IN YOUR FAITH (Don’t give up)
- 6) **WHEN YOU FAIL ALONG THE WAY, CONFESS THAT SIN AND GET ON WITH SERVING THE LORD**