

Lesson #10—The Biblical Warnings Related to the Glory of God

Introduction

- A. In this series of lessons we have been reminding ourselves that God is worthy of all the glory we could ever give to Him.
- B. We have learned that God created us and redeemed us so that we could live for Him and bring glory to His name.
- C. The way of measuring our success in all of this is also found in the glory of God. There are three steps which form the basis of success: we must do what is right (the truth), practice the truth in love and faith, and do it all for the glory of God. When we choose to live this way—our success is assured.
- D. In this last lesson it is necessary to look at some of the warnings that relate to the glory of God.

I. The Principle behind these Warnings: God is worthy of all glory and all glory belongs to Him.

- A. We are exhorted to glorify God, I Chronicles 16:23-29.

**Sing unto the Lord, all the earth, shew forth from day to day His salvation.
Declare His glory among the heathen, His marvellous works among all nations.
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, He also is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the people are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.
Glory and honor are in His presence, strength and gladness are in His place.
Give unto the Lord, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the Lord glory and strength.
Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name, bring an offering and come before Him,
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

Observations:

1. These verses explain why God should be glorified—it is because of how great He is and the wonderful works He has performed.
2. When we consider His moral excellence, the infinity of His perfections, the greatness of His works, the practicality of His love, and the extent of His provision of us—we are led to give Him praise, honor, glory and majesty.
3. We must accept this divine exhortation and give ourselves to the task of bringing glory to God. He is worthy.

GOD IS INFINITE IN ALL HIS ATTRIBUTES	}	<u>OMNIPOTENCE</u> LOVE TRUTH HOLINESS	}	<u>FOR YOU!</u>
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- B. We are reminded that all glory belongs only to God, Isaiah 42:8.

I am the Lord, that is My name, and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images.

Observations:

1. By this statement we are instructed that God is worthy to be praised and glorified because of Who He is. That is what He means by reference to His "name". The "name of God", in the Bible, is the summary of His attributes, loving provision, gracious promises, creative handiwork, and sovereign intervention among His people.
2. God will not allow the glory which is due His holy name to be given to another. When that is done by an idolater God enters into a relationship with that person which will involve judgment.
3. This principle comes to each of us as a solemn warning. It is right for us to glorify God. When we fail to do so we are placing ourselves out of the will of God.

II. Illustrations of Failure to Glorify God.

A. Israel failed to glorify God in turning to idols, Jeremiah 2:11-13.

Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? But **My people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit.**

Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the Lord.

For My people have committed two evils, they have **forsaken Me**, the Fountain of Living Waters, and **hewed them out cisterns**, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Observations:

1. God here describes Himself as the "glory" of Israel. In choosing and blessing them God had made them to be all they were.
2. In turning to idols Israel left the source of all life and light for that which was characterized by death and darkness.
3. Because of our sinful nature we are all prone to be attracted to that which will not profit us. We are highly vulnerable to that which offers immediate satisfaction.

B. Israel failed to glorify God by neglect, Jeremiah 13:11.

For as the girdle cleaveth to the loins of a man, so have I caused to cleave unto Me the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah, saith the Lord, **that they might be unto Me for a people, and for a name, and for a praise, and for a glory, but they would not hear.**

1. This verse is clear. God desired to bless His people so His glory would be manifested through them. They were given a most wonderful opportunity to cooperate with God in the fulfillment of His plan.
2. Their stubborn neglect caused them to miss the best that God had in mind for them. Instead of living in Palestine with the providential blessing of God upon them they were taken into captivity, deported to Babylon, and made slaves.
3. This tragic illustration comes to us as a warning. We may not neglect our walk with God, doubt His promises, and fail to keep His commandments. When we do so we forfeit His blessing and lose the opportunity to glorify God.

C. Israel's priests failed to live for the glory of God, Malachi 2:1, 2.

And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you.

If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto My name, saith the Lord of Hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings, yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

Observations:

1. This terrible warning and evaluation came to those men in Israel who should have known how to live and serve God.
2. In chapter 1 of this book the evidence of their failure was clearly stated.
 - a. They had despised God's name by lack of reverence and obedience, Vs 6.
 - b. They had offered defective sacrifices to God, Vs 7-9.
 - c. They had to be paid for their services, V10.
 - d. They had treated the service of God with contempt in allowing people to disobey God, Vs 12-14.
3. These evidences of not living for the glory of God come to us today as a warning. Would God say this about us?

D. The believers at Corinth failed to glorify God, I Cor. 1:26-31.

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men,
...mighty...noble are called,
But God hath chosen the foolish...the weak...the base...the despised...and things which are not...
That no flesh (person) should glory in His presence....

Observations:

1. The believers at Corinth were preoccupied with themselves. They had broken up into cliques in the church and each group was trying to prove that they were more spiritual.
2. These saints, like many of us, had forgotten that God had given them all they possessed (1:30; 4:7).
3. As long as these Christians were pointing to themselves, their gifts, their testimony, their service, their accomplishments—God was not being glorified.
4. This attitude of spiritual self-centeredness—is entirely out of harmony with the very plan and purpose of God. God is to be glorified and not man. He has determined that "no person should glory in His presence".
5. In these verses before us we have the one basic reason why the Church at Corinth was in spiritual difficulty.

III. Biblical Warnings Related to Incorrect Goals.

A. The warning regarding covetousness, Luke 12:15-21.

And He (the Lord Jesus) said unto them, Take heed, and **beware of covetousness**, for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.
And He spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully...
But God said unto him, Thou fool....

Observations:

1. The sin of covetousness is referred to many times in the Bible. It is likened to the sin of idolatry (Col. 3:5). It is much more serious than generally recognized.
2. By being covetous we are saying many sinful things:
 - a. We are saying we are not content with this our Father's world.
 - b. We are saying that we are not content with God's plan for our lives.
 - c. We are saying that we do not believe in the principle and truth of Romans 8:28—that God is working all things for our good.
 - d. We are saying that we are worth more than what we have been given—we are not being treated correctly.
 - e. We are saying that the secret of fulfillment is in the change of my circumstances or some related factor.
3. We must choose to examine our lives in that covetousness takes many subtle forms.

B. The warning related to attention, Matthew 6:1, 2, 5, 16.

Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them, otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.
Therefore when you do thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, **that they may have glory of man.** Verily I say unto you, They have their reward....

Observation:

1. One of the important characteristics of being a sinner is that we seek the attention and praise that leads to sinful satisfaction and pride.
2. Instead of living so that we call attention to God—we live calling attention to ourselves.
3. Much of this sinful activity may be unconscious. But, to insure attention, we develop a hurt, a problem, a talent, a laugh, a look, a conversational skill, a possession, or a belligerent attitude that demands and threatens.
4. When the Lord Jesus was upon earth He was described as the "mirror" in which God was seen (Hebrews 1:3). It is very important that we live to draw attention to Him—not to ourselves.

C. The warning related to selfish fulfillment, I John 2:15, 16.

Love not the world...

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Observation:

1. It is obvious from these verses that worldliness is simply a selfish, self-centered desire for personal fulfillment.
2. Our very nature pushes us in this direction. Our main goal in life too often revolves around the attempt to satisfy our own desires.

IV. That Which We Lose When The Glory of God is Not Our Daily Goal.

A. We may fail to qualify for deliverance, Psalm 50:15.

And call upon Me in the day of trouble, I will deliver thee, and thou shalt **glorify Me**.

B. We may fail to qualify for "good works", 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.

C. We may fail to qualify for fruitfulness, John 15:8.

Herein is my Father **glorified**, that ye bear much fruit, so shall ye be My disciple.

D. We may fail to qualify for a life of cooperation with God in prayer, John 14:13.

And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be **glorified** in the Son.

E. We may fail to qualify for help in regard to faith, Romans 4:20.

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, **giving glory to God**.

F. We may fail to qualify for help in regard to personal purity, I Cor. 6:20.

For ye are bought with a price, therefore **glorify God** in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

G. We may fail to qualify as a good steward of God's grace, I Peter 4:10, 11.

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

...that God in all things may be **glorified**....

Observation:

In all of these areas, and there are many more, the crucial issue is the glory of God. When we live without concern for God's glory—it would seem that all other facets of God's provision and blessing would be weakened. This may be a serious reason why our daily life is not more successful.

Conclusion:

- A. At the conclusion of this series we must ask if we have been using a unit of measurement, to determine our success, which has thrown us into spiritual confusion.
- B. We must be willing to face the question: "Am I working for the wrong goal?" If we are not consciously choosing by faith to live for the glory of God—by practicing the truth—then the answer to that question is "Yes".
- C. God created us and redeemed us to live for His glory. That is our one single purpose in life. When we do so then we open the door to spiritual success.