

Lesson #2—The Importance of Living for the Glory of God.

Introduction

- A. In these lessons we are seeking to understand how to measure success. We have accepted, as the unit of measurement, the glory of God.
- B. In the last lesson we discussed the meaning of "the glory of God". We found that the term refers, primarily, to the moral excellence of His person as well as to His revelation to us.
- C. In this lesson we wish to consider what it means for the believer to glorify God.
- D. There is a divine principle behind all of this. The prophet of God stated it to Eli the priest.

...them that honor Me I will honor, and they that despise Me shall be lightly esteemed. I Samuel 2:30

I. The Explanation: What does it mean to live for the glory of God?

- A. It means to acknowledge and practice the truth, Joshua 7:19-21.

And Joshua said unto Achan, 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.**

And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done.

When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them, and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

Observations:

- 1. After the victory over Jericho Israel was soundly defeated by a handful of men of Ai. The reason is that Achan had disobeyed God and taken that from Jericho upon which the judgment of God rested. By this Israel lost God's blessing.
- 2. Joshua urged Achan to glorify God by confessing the truth to what he had done.
- 3. When Achan confessed and was judged—the blessing of God again rested upon the nation.



- 4. Living for the glory of God should have been more important to Achan.
 - a. Joshua 7:21 states that he "...saw...coveted...and took..." the garments, the silver and the gold.
 - b. Because of this act Israel was defeated, thirty-six men lost their lives, and God's reputation was sullied.
- 5. There is a great lesson here for all of us. When we count the glory of God unimportant and identify with that upon which the judgment of God rests—we inherit the judgment and lose the blessing.
- B. It means to initiate a correct response, in worship and practice, to the greatness of God, I Chronicles 16:23-29, 34.

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.
O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever.

Observation:

1. This passage emphasizes a very important facet of what it means to live for God's glory—it means to originate the attitude of worship, praise, and thanksgiving and then to practice that attitude.
2. So many areas of the daily life are directly tied in to our attitude. We must choose to initiate and maintain an attitude that is in harmony with God's greatness and goodness.
3. This is where we often fail due to the effects of sin on our mental and emotional life. It is easy to give way to the thoughts and feelings of doubt, fear, anxiety, discouragement and ingratitude.
4. The believer should not permit such expressions of error that clearly contradict the truth. God is there—He can be trusted—what He does is goodness—and He is worthy of all our worship, praise and thanksgiving.
5. This is largely a matter of choice. We must make such choices, in faith, love and hope, to believe and practice the truth.

C. It means to develop a way of life which is in harmony with the person and revelation of God.

1. A life of 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.

Observation: The term "good works" simply refers to actions which may be described as "good". This would surely include those characterized by honesty, mercy, righteousness, kindness, gratitude, love and patience.

2. A life of unity, Romans 15:5, 6.

Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be **like-minded** one toward another according to Christ Jesus.
That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Observation: It is evident from Scripture that all true believers have been united in Jesus Christ. Here we are exhorted to think and live that way. Needless divisions among us not only creates confusion, it is a contradiction to the truth and the will of God.

3. A life of purity, I Corinthians 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?
 For ye are bought with a price, **therefore glorify God** in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

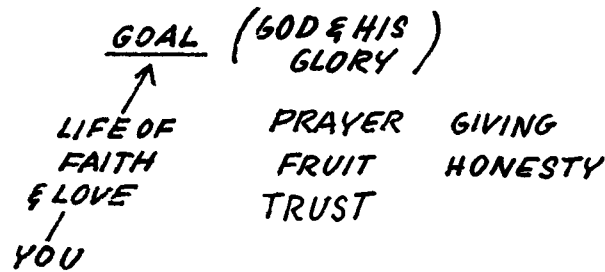
Observation: Corinth was known for its immorality. The believers there would be particularly susceptible to temptation. Paul reminded them of the truth—they belonged to God and were His temple. This truth was to be aggressively lived out, day by day, to the glory of God.

4. A life of service, 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. 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.

Observation: Every believer has been given a divine enablement so we may serve God as a steward. We can dispense the grace of God through a ministry of the Word of God.

II. The Instruction: How are we to live for the glory of God?



A. Pray—for the glory of God, John 14:13.

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

Observation: When we are willing to have the goal of the glory of God in our prayers—the Lord Jesus Himself promises to get involved. That shows how important this is.

B. Bear fruit—for the glory of God, John 15:8.

Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit, so shall ye be My disciples.

Observation: Fruitbearing is fundamentally a manifestation of the life of Jesus Christ in the believer. If we are willing to live this way—for God's glory—we give evidence that we are truly God's children.

C. Trust God—for the glory of God, Romans 4:19, 20.

And (Abraham) being not weak in faith, considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, **giving glory to God.**

Observation: Abraham trusted God in spite of insurmountable obstacles. Every facet of his trust was related to God. The reason he did not consider his own body or that of Sarah's was because of the nature of God and what He has said. That determination to trust God for the fulfilling of the divine plan—brought glory to God.

D. Give money—for the glory of God, II Corinthians 9:12, 13.

For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God. While by the experiment of this ministration **they glorify God** for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men.

Observation: The believers in Southern Israel were suffering due to crop failure. The Christians in Greece and Turkey had gathered a sacrificial offering for them. Paul spoke of this act of giving as due to their "subjection unto the gospel" and as causing "thanksgiving unto God" and God being "glorified".

E. Live honestly—for the glory of God, I Peter 2:12.

Having your conversation (daily life) honest among the Gentiles (non-Christians), that, whereas they speak against you as evil-doers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, **glorify God** in the day of visitation.

Observation: It is not enough for the believer to live an honest life so he may not go to jail or get his name in the paper for misconduct. We are to so live that God would be glorified. When we make and then implement such choices—we are achieving in our lives the divine plan of the ages.

F. Do everything—for the glory of God, I Corinthians 10:31.

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, **do all to the glory of God.**

Observation: This summary verse is a reminder that the clear-thinking believer has the glory of God as a goal in all facets of his life. This does not mean he must be a legalist or an ascetic. To live this way is normality itself. It is the way we were originally created. It is simply the practical expression of love and faith, saying, "Not my will, but Thine be done".

III. The Application: What is so important that it will determine and secure the believer's success? It is living for the glory of God!

A. The recommended affirmation, Psalm 86:11, 12.

Teach me Thy way, O Lord, I will walk in Thy truth, unite my heart to fear Thy name.
I will praise Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and **I will glorify Thy name for evermore.**

Observation: No believer may say any less than this—and be in the will of God. Are we willing to be taught, to live according to the truth, to set our heart on fearing God, to praise God with the heart, and to live for His glory?

B. The divine evaluation, Jeremiah 9:23, 24.

Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches.
But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth, for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.

Observation: Here God Himself speaks of the importance of knowing Him and living for His glory. When we choose to have His glory the goal of our daily life—we open the door to every good thing. By this we qualify for the ministry of the Blessed Holy Spirit. By this we not only initiate we enter into a way of life in which success is guaranteed.

Conclusion: What could be more important, more valuable, more helpful, more practical, more fulfilling—than living for the glory of God? Nothing!

