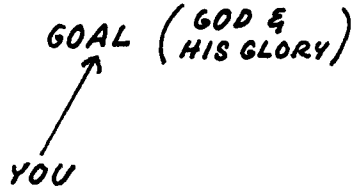


Lesson #3—The Lord Jesus Christ and the Glory of God



Introduction

- A. We have seen, from the Scripture, that the glory of God is the only adequate measurement to indicate success.
- B. In the last lesson we realized that there was nothing more important, more practical, and more fulfilling—than living for the glory of God.
- C. In this lesson we wish to consider the Lord Jesus Christ and the glory of God. This will help us in a number of ways.
 1. We will gain a deeper understanding of what is meant by the glory of God.
 2. We will find that living for the glory of God was a most-important goal in the life of our Lord and Savior.
 3. This will also serve as a reminder that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, is worthy of all the glory, honor and praise that could ever be given to Him.

I. The Glory of God Was Manifested in His Work of Creation.

A. The Scripture

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. John 1:1-3

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.**

And He is before all things, and **by Him all things consist.** Colossians 1:16, 17

God, Who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, Whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds. Hebrews 1:1, 2

The four and twenty elders fall down before Him that sat on the throne, and worship Him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, **for thou hast created all things;** and for Thy pleasure they are and were created. Revelation 4:10, 11

B. The Observations:

1. It takes our breath away to realize that it was our Lord and Savior Who created all things—the universe, the angels, our earth with all its splendor, the human race, and everything related to all of these.
2. He invites us to look at creation and then to realize how great He must be.

To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the holy one.

Lift up your eyes on high, and **behold Who hath created these things**, that bringeth out their host by number, He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power.... Isaiah 40:25, 26

3. The vastness of creation has been described as follows:

If the thickness of this page represented the distance of the earth to the sun (93,000,000 miles), then the distance of the nearest star would require a stack of this paper 71 feet high.

The diameter of our own small galaxy by the above measurement would require a 310 mile stack of paper. To reach the edge of the known universe by the same measurement would require a pile of paper 31 million miles high!

The 200-inch telescope on Mt. Palomar reveals as many as a million galaxies (each full of stars) in just the bowl of the Big Dipper. (Courtesy of Clair Saliers in the Bible Correspondence Institute Newsletter.)

4. All of this should lead us to a far deeper appreciation of God's plan of the ages—to exalt the Lord Jesus and to give Him the preeminence in all things. Creation testifies to His greatness and points out that He is worthy of all glory and honor.

II. The Glory of God Was Manifested in His Life and Ministry.

A. The Scripture

His healing ministry:

And great multitudes came unto Him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them, Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see, and **they glorified the God of Israel.** Matt. 15:30,31

His miracle of raising the dead:

And He came and touched the bier, and they that bare him stood still. And He said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up and began to speak. And He delivered him to his mother. And there came a fear on all and **they glorified God**, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us, and, That God hath visited His people. Luke 7:14-16

His teaching ministry:

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee, and there went out a fame of Him through all the region round about. And He taught in their synagogues, **being glorified of all.** Luke 4:14, 15

The summary testimony of the Apostle John:

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 1:14



B. The Observations:

1. In all of these facets of our Lord's life we see a display of the compassion, power, righteousness, and sovereignty of God. The glory of God was expressed in all that He did—His attitude, teaching, and actions.
2. The emphasis in these verses before us is very important. Here we are taught how the glory of God was revealed through actions. When we choose to do the will of God and live a life of compassion, truthfulness and righteousness—then the glory of God will be manifested in our daily life.

<u>CREATION</u>	<u>FALL</u>	<u>JESUS CHRIST</u>	<u>SALVATION</u>
KNOWLEDGE	IGNORANCE	PROPHET	KNOWLEDGE
DEATH	DEATH	PRIEST	LIFE
PURPOSE	MEANINGLESSNESS	KING	ROM.8:28

hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father, **to Him be glory** and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Revelation 1:5, 6

B. The Observations:

1. The titles here given to the Lord Jesus designate His threefold office:
 - a. He is God's Prophet—"the faithful witness".
 - b. He is God's Priest—"the first begotten of the dead".
 - c. He is God's King—"the prince of the kings of the earth".
2. The work of redemption is given a threefold description.
 - a. Its source—"unto Him that loved us".
 - b. Its method—"washed us from our sins in His own blood".
 - c. Its product—"and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father".
3. The only appropriate benediction to all of this was stated by John.

"To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen".

Conclusion:

- A. All of these themes and verses remind us of the importance of Jesus Christ and His work. When we choose to give Him that place of preeminence in our daily life and live in harmony with Who He is and what He has done for us—then we know we will be successful and will achieve the goal of bringing glory to God.
- B. It is overwhelming to realize that God has made it possible for us to be included in His plan to exalt Jesus Christ. We will never know what an honor and privilege this is. We who once chose to reject Him—He has made it possible for us to be forgiven, to be accepted, to be pleasing to Him, and to live for His glory!
- C. The summary of this theme—the glory of God in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ—is found in His prayer recorded in John 17. There are three petitions and three affirmations.
 1. Petition #1—

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come, **glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee.** John 17:1
 2. Affirmation #1—

I have glorified Thee on the earth, I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do. John 17:4
 3. Petition #2—

And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was. John 17:5

4. Affirmation #2—

I pray for them, I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine.

And all mine are thine, and thine are mine, and **I am glorified in them.** John 17:9, 10

5. Affirmation #3—

And the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them, that they may be one, even as we are one. John 17:22

6. Petition #3—

Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, **that they may behold My glory,** which Thou hast given Me, for Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world. John 17:24

- D. What should our response be to all of this? The only Biblical response would be a sincere prayer and commitment of life that God would work in us so that we may live for His glory. Anything less than that would be a sin.