



The Majesty of God: His Glory

Study 1

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render; O help us to see,
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.

I. What does the "glory of God" mean?

The glory of God is the reflection of His perfect Being. When we look in a mirror and see a reflection of ourselves, we may say, "Wow, look how good looking I am!" In a similar way, when we see God reveal Himself through the mirror of the Bible, we might say, "Awesome, look how glorious God is." However, there is a difference between looking at ourselves in a mirror and looking at God through the mirror of the Bible. When we look at ourselves, we make a judgment on our

looks based on a comparison of how other people look. With God, on the other hand, there is none other with whom God can be compared because He is the one and only true God. After God delivered His people from the Egyptian army that was trying to kill them, Moses and Israel sang to the Lord, "Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" (Exodus 15:11)

II. What is the standard for right and wrong?

["For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" - Romans 3:23]

1. The Standard for Right and Wrong is the glory of God. Romans 3:23 teaches us two lessons. (1) The Nature of Sin. We learn two important truths in this verse. First, sin is universal. Everyone has broken God's commandments and this makes him a sinner. Second, sin is total. As all have sinned, so each person is completely affected in the way he thinks, what he says and how he acts (we think wrong

ideas, say wrong words and do wrong actions). (2) The Measure of Sin. Now, sin is not measured by the scales of relativity. In other words, we do not judge sin by comparing ourselves with other people. This would give us an inaccurate calculation. We must measure sin by the standard of God's glory. Only when we compare ourselves to the glory of God, will we be able to judge how we truly look.

III. Why does God save sinners through Jesus Christ?

The following Scripture is quoted from 1 Corinthians 1:29-30.
Take some time to study the three divisions and their meanings.

(29) The Object of Glory: God - no one should glorify himself
That no flesh should glory in his presence.

(30) The Reason to Glory: Salvation - Christ is all spiritual blessings
But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us
wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

(31) The Object of Glory: God - everyone should glorify the Lord
That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

First, notice that God is the object of glory. Imagine if you received one hundred percent on a test at school. Do you think it would be right for you to boast about how much you know and how great you are? Of course, there is nothing wrong with feeling satisfied that you have succeeded at school. However, do you think you could have made that grade if God had not given you a brain, and if He had not provided you with an education to learn, and if He had not enabled you to memorize your lessons, and if He had not blessed you with your knowledge and understanding? The right response should be to boast that the Lord has succeeded through you and that all the praise and honour belongs to God. That is what these statements mean: "No flesh [person] should glory [glorify himself] in His presence."; "He that glorieth [boasts of greatness], let him glory in the Lord."

Second, notice that salvation is the main reason why we should recognize the glory of God. Verse 30 is a little difficult to understand. Let us use an illustration. If you walk down to the local supermarket and buy a loaf of bread, twelve eggs and a pack of bacon, you would exchange money for those items. Money is the common currency through which we trade for other items. In a similar way, when you want spiritual blessings like wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption, you can only receive them through the "common currency of heaven" - our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This is what we learn from Ephesians 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." God is to be "blessed" or "glorified" because He has given to us salvation through Jesus Christ.

IV. What is the main goal for which we should live our lives?

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

This verse teaches us two reasons why God put us in this world. First, God put us in this world to glorify Him. What does it mean to "glorify God"? On the one hand, no one can add glory to God since His glory is a true reflection of who He is. In this respect, the reason why God has made you and saved you is for the purpose of showing us who He is by the reflection of what He does. On the other hand, we are able to recognize the glory of God through the mirror of the Bible and thereby ascribe to Him all honour and praise [glory]. This two-fold idea of "glorifying God" is expressed in Revelation 4:11, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: [ascribing glory to God] for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. [God possessing all glory in Himself and creating all things for Himself]" Second, God put us in the world to glorify Him by enjoying Him through all things. Think about this. You may sit down at the breakfast table in the morning and enjoy your cereal and toast. However, have you ever considered there is

something more to your enjoyment than the simple pleasure of taste and filling your stomach? Is it possible to enjoy God through the eating of your cereal and toast? This may sound strange, but that is exactly why God put us into this world. The Lord has blessed us with many wonderful things to enjoy, but none of these things are supposed to be the main enjoyment. Our main enjoyment should be God. Yes, we are to glorify God by enjoying Him through the many blessings He has given to us in life. We might say, "True happiness is enjoying the Blesser [God] through the blessings He has given." Think of one thing you get most joy out of in life: your family, your friends, your games, your hobbies, etc.? Now, how do you enjoy God through your family, friends, games, hobbies, etc.? Take some time to think about this. You may be surprised to discover that some of the things you enjoy are things that do not honour God. If this is what you find, how do you plan on making changes so that you can honour God and enjoy Him in your life?

V. What do the phrases of the first stanza of the hymn mean?

1. What does "great Father of glory" mean? "Great Father of glory" is referring to the reflection of the Father's greatness.
2. What does "pure Father of light" mean? "Pure Father of light" is referring to the revelation of the Father's holiness.
3. What does "all laud we would render" mean? "Laud" means honour and praise and "render" means giving or proclaiming.
4. Why is it "only the splendour of light"

that hides God? "Light" is the element which allows us to see and yet only light can hide God - this simply means that God cannot be hid.

5. Why do we need "help to see" God if He can only be hidden by the "splendour of light"? There is a difference between a hidden God and a blind sinner. Unless God opens our eyes through the new birth, we will never see Him because of our sin. (John 3:1-8)

Activity

It can sometimes be difficult to know how to enjoy God through the blessings that He has given us. We will do an exercise that will help us learn to enjoy God through our everyday blessings. (1) Do you love your bed or your parents more? (2) Do you love your clothes or your parents more? (3) Do you love your computer game or your parents more?

The answer to these questions is obvious. We love our parents more. Why? Because we know our parents through a relationship - they gave us life, they love us, they provide for us. Our bed, clothes and computer game are things that our parents gave us to enjoy, but our real joy comes from knowing that our parents love us and we love them. In other words, we enjoy knowing our parents through the enjoyment of the things they have given to us. Now, this same thing is

true for our relationship with God. God has given us life, He love us, He has saved us and He provides for us. He has given us wonderful blessings to enjoy, but our real joy comes from knowing that God loves us and we love Him. We enjoy knowing God through the enjoyment of the things He has given to us.

In order to practice this truth, follow the next six steps and see if you are able to enjoy God through some of your favourite blessings: (1) What are your top three blessings? (2) Why do you enjoy these blessings so much? (3) How do these blessings honour God? (4) Where did these blessings come from? (5) Do you think the one who gave you these blessings loves you? (6) How much should you then love the one who gave you these blessings?

Homework

Reading Lesson

Monday: Section 1 - What does the glory of God mean?

Tuesday: Section 2 - What is the standard for right and wrong?

Wednesday: Section 3: Why does God save sinners through Jesus Christ?

Thursday: Section 4: What is the main goal for which we should live our lives?

Friday: Section 5: What do the phrases of the first stanza of the hymn mean?

Completing Assignment

Monday: Memorization - (1) 1 Corinthians 10:31; (2) First stanza of hymn

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Wednesday: Memorization - (1) 1 Corinthians 10:31; (2) First stanza of hymn

Thursday: Memorization - (1) 1 Corinthians 10:31; (2) First stanza of hymn

Friday: Memorization - (1) 1 Corinthians 10:31; (2) First stanza of hymn. Activity - complete the activity

Saturday: Memorization: (1) 1 Cor 10:31; (2) First stanza of hymn. Testimony - write a testimony of no less than six lines which explain how you were able to glorify God this week.