

The Glory of God Alone



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- ❖ *So What?*

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and **glorify** your Father in heaven.” **Matthew 5:16**

“For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be **glory** forever. Amen.” **Romans 11:36**

Soli Deo Gloria

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Introduction

- ❖ **Quote** (Purpose Driven Life): "It's not about you."
- ❖ **The Problem in the World**
 - ** "Postmodern" Culture (*redux*): Radical → Skepticism/Autonomy/Relativism/Morality/Plurality
 - "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not **glorify** Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened." **Romans 1:20–21**
 - ** SIN!
- ❖ **The Problem in the Church**
 - ** Bad *theology proper* ~ we have a low view of God!
 - **Illus**: Popular Christian Books ~ Solipsism/Subjective → Any less *radical*?
 - **Quote** (Abraham Kuyper, *redux*): Oh, no single piece of our mental world is to be hermetically sealed off from the rest, and there is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'
 - ** SIN!

Our Purpose

- ❖ **Biblical Theology**: Something > Our "Salvation"
 - "Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have **created for My glory**; I have formed him, yes, I have made him." **Isaiah 43:7**
- ❖ **Historical Theology**:
 - **Catechism of the Catholic Church**: The ultimate purpose of creation is that God "who is the creator of all things may at last become 'all in all,' thus simultaneously assuring his own **glory** and our beatitude"
 - **The New Hampshire Baptist Confession/Baptist Faith and Message**: "Of God's Purpose of Grace...it is a most **glorious** display of God's sovereign goodness..."
 - The Concordia: "they (the godly) will act so that nothing may be lacking in them, even to the greatest effort, by which God's **glory** and the common welfare may be promoted in both temporal and eternal things."
 - **Wesley**: "[God] will certainly do what will be most for his own **glory**." → "the Scripture frequently speaks of the **glory** of God...meaning thereby, the manifestation of his essential **glory**, of his eternal power and godhead, and of his **glorious** attributes, more especially his justice, mercy, and truth. And it is in this sense alone that the **glory** of God is said to be advanced by man."
 - **The Book of Common Prayer**: "...ordain and publish such further Ceremonies or Rites as may be most for the advancement of God's **Glory**, the edifying of his Church, and the due reverence of Christ's holy Mysteries and Sacraments."
 - **Westminster Shorter Catechism**: "What is the chief end of man? To **glorify** God and enjoy Him forever."
 - **CFC Mission & Purpose**: Article II/Section 1 of the Constitution: The **purpose** of this organization will be to conduct church services and do all things allied thereto in support of the **cause of Jesus Christ** = His glory! → Mission & Purpose Statement: Honor God through our worship, praise, and prayer → **Honor God** = *glorify*!
 - **Illus**: *AMDG* and *SDG*
 - NB: "Our" theology reflected in MSA and 3-Points
- ❖ **Summary**: Every aspect of our lives should be for God's glory!

Our Salvation

- ❖ Text: **** Ephesians 1:3-14**
 - **Illus:** 5 Solas of the Protestant Reformation (*Soli Deo Gloria*)
 - *Sola Scriptura: Formal Principle* (Authoritative Source)
 - *Sola Gratia: Unmerited Favor* (*imputed* merit of Christ alone)
 - *Sola Fide: Material Principle* (Core Issue)

 - *Solus Christus: No other way!* (Don't add to Christ! ~ *preeminence* vs *prominence*)
- ❖ **Summary:** Ain't God lucky to have us!

Our Lives

- ❖ Some "Umbrella" Texts
 - "...Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth **glorify** the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the **glory** of God. Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might **glorify** God for His mercy..." **Romans 15:5-9**

 - "to Him be **glory** in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." **Ephesians 3:21**
- ❖ Means (~ How do we glorify God?)
 - *Salvation* ~ **Ephesians 1:3-14** (vs **Romans 3:23**)
 - *Thanksgiving* ~ "Whoever offers praise **glorifies** Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God." **Psalm 50:23**
 - *Faith* ~ "He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving **glory** to God," **Romans 4:20**
 - *Prayer* ~ "...whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be **glorified** in the Son." **John 14:13**
 - *Dependence* ~ "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall **glorify** Me." **Psalm 50:15**
 - *Entire Being* ~ "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your **heart**, with all your **soul**, and with all your **mind**.'" **Matthew 22:37**
 - ****** We glorify God when He has our *heart* (vs just obedience)
 - **Illus:** Anniversary ~ Duty (dishonor) or Joy (honor)? → "Because nothing makes me happier tonight than to be with you"
 - **Quote** (Augustine): "Love God, and do as you please"
 - *All of Life* (vs Monastic Orders and "Church" Goers) ~ "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." **1 Corinthians 10:31**

Conclusion

- ❖ *So What?* ****** Every aspect of our lives should be for God's glory!
 - “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and **glorify** your Father in heaven.” **Matthew 5:16**

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