

“To God Be the Glory”

Intro: Thomas Watson once said, “Glory is as essential to the Godhead as light is to the sun. Glory is the sparkling of the deity”.

Just as a finely-cut diamond captures the light and radiates a brilliant sparkle, so the character of God finds expression in the glory of God!

A.W. Tozer commented, “God is looking for men in whose hands His glory is safe”. God is seeking people who will see His glory, acknowledge His glory, and declare His glory. God seeks people that will glorify Him! Are we among them?

God’s intrinsic glory

God’s glory is great

And they will sing of the ways of the Lord. For great is the glory of the Lord. (Psalm 138:5)

God’s glory is eternal.

Let the glory of the Lord endure forever; Let the Lord be glad in His works; (Psalm 104:31)

God’s glory is reserved for Himself and no other.

“I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images. (Isaiah 42:8)

The Hebrew word for “glory” is “chabod”. It is derived from the idea of weight or heaviness. Originally the word “glory” conveyed the greatness of a person because of the weight of his wealth. When applied to God it refers to His greatness, fame, honor by virtue of His character.

The Greek word for “glory” is “doxa” and it conveys the idea of radiant light. Even now we tend to praise the excellence of another in terms of light. We say, “That was a brilliant idea”. Or, “It was a stellar performance”.

All that God has done manifests His glory.

Glory manifest in creation

The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. (Psalm 19:1)

“Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created.” (Revelation 4:11)

Glory manifest in redemption

to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:6)

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:36)

We sometimes sing, “To God be the glory, great things He has done; so loved He the world that He gave us His Son who yielded His life an atonement for sin and opened the life-gate that all may come in!”

So God not only possesses intrinsic glory; He is also to receive ascribed glory.

Mankind was made to bring glory to God

Westminster Catechism asks, "What is the chief end of man"? The answer: To glory God and enjoy Him forever. And so we are encouraged to do!

Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of the mighty, Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in holy array. (Psalm 29:1-2)

Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; He also is to be feared above all gods. (1 Chronicles 16:24-25)

However Paul mentions that men have not fulfilled their created purpose. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (Romans 1:21)

But God has been glorified by His Son.

God's glory is glorified through Jesus Christ

Through His character

And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; (Hebrews 1:3)

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Through His works

*Jesus *said to her, "Did I not say to you, if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" (John 11:40)*

Through His death

"Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.²⁸ 'Father, glorify Thy name.'" (John 12:27-28)

Through Jesus' death God is glorified by the creation of the church "to the praise of His glory" (Eph. 1)

God is glorified through the church

to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:21)

The church glorifies God through:

Whole-hearted God-centered worship

speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; (Ephesians 5:19)

If we truly want to glorify God our worship will focus on Him and be offered according to His commandments. Is God's glory safe with us?

Teaching God's word and serving others

Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:11)

If we truly want to glorify God we will teach what God has said and depend upon God's help in our work. Is God's glory safe with us?

Excellent living

Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation. (1 Peter 2:12)

We glorify God by excelling as citizens, as workers, as husbands and wives, and as brothers and sisters in the family of God. Is God's glory safe with us?

Proper use of the body

For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:20)

We glorify God when we allow our bodies to be used for the divinely intended purposes and refrain from sexual immorality.

By developing a Christ-like character and mission

"By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. (John 15:8)

We glorify God when we grow in our spirituality and it manifests itself in the fruit of the Spirit. Is God's glory safe with us?

Good works

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

When we devote ourselves to teaching others and living as we should God is glorified by others who come to Him through our influence. Is God's glory safe with us?

Conclusion: For months we have considered the glorious character of God. Now let us glorify Him as His people!

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Let us join with Paul in this purpose:

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)

At the judgment those who glorify God here will receive glory from Him!