

**GLORIFY
GOD!**

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January 15, 2023

Scriptures NKIV: Ps. 19; Ps. 139:13-14; Ex. 33:18-19; Luke 2:10-14; Peter 4:12-16; Rev. 7:1-4,9-17

Sermon in a sentence: God deserves to be glorified *in* my life, and *through* my life.

[This message is dedicated to my wonderful MIT students who are working so hard to hone their skills in sharing God's word. God bless you all, in Jesus' name!]

Over the past few weeks as I was thinking about this service, I asked the Lord what He'd like me to share with you today. He gave me two words: "Glorify God." So, with His help, I'd like us to do that today.

I'm sure the psalmist David was thinking about this when he penned the words of Psalm 19.

Responsive congregational reading:

Psalm 19 **The heavens declare the glory of God;** and the firmament shows His handiwork. ² Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. ³ *There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.* ⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, ⁵ Which *is* like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber *and* rejoices like a strong man to run its race. ⁶ Its rising *is* from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat. ⁷ **The law of the LORD is perfect,** converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ **The statutes of the LORD are right,** rejoicing the heart; **the commandment of the LORD is pure,**

enlightening the eyes; ⁹ The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *and* in keeping them *there is* great reward. ¹² Who can understand *his* errors? **Cleanse me from secret *faults*.** ¹³ Keep back Your servant **also from presumptuous *sins***; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.**

David begins by talking about the glory of God, revealed in His creation. Then he makes it really personal in Psalm 139. He looks at himself in the mirror and says:

Psalm 139:13-14 ... You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and *that* my soul knows very well.

As we read these verses, don't ever forget that God's glory is seen in each and every one of us. We have been created in the *image* and *likeness* of God Almighty (Gen. 1:26-27).

Going back to Psalm 19, David continued to meditate and expand on the awesome glory and majesty of God. Not just in creation, but also in His righteousness, reflected in His Law. He said:

- The law of the Lord is perfect
- The statutes of the Lord are right
- The commandment of the Lord is pure

Which brings us to the question: "In light of God's glorious creation and His righteous Law, how then should we live?"

Well, God answered that question for us back in the Book of Exodus. Chapters 19 and 24 tell us about God coming down in glory on Mt. Sinai and giving Moses the details of the Law humans should follow and obey. Moses preceded David by about 500 years, but like David, he also thought deeply about the glory of God. Then, in Exodus 33 he makes one of the most audacious requests ever made by a human being. God had just granted his request to continue leading the children of Israel to the promised land, despite their gross sinfulness. From this interaction, Moses could clearly see there was a lot more to Yahweh than just law and righteousness. So, he asked Him, as simply and directly as he could:

Ex. 33:18 ... "Please, show me Your **glory**."

And incredibly, God said:

Exodus 33:19 "I will make all My **goodness** pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be **gracious** to whom I will be gracious, and I will have **compassion** on whom I will have compassion."

Moses asked for "glory." God showed him "goodness." Which says to me that in God's mind, His glory is revealed in His goodness! And to "goodness" He added "grace" and "compassion." This is the modus operandi of our God!

Then 1500 years after Moses, when the Messiah was ready to be revealed, Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her to name her Son "Yeshua" (Luke 1:31). We have anglicized His name as Jesus, but when Joseph got his angelic message about Mary's child, he was told that He was given the name Yeshua because He would "save His people from their sins" (Matt 1:21). Yeshua means: Yahweh is salvation.

So, as we saw earlier, the glory of God's *power* was revealed in creation, and the glory of God's *righteousness* was revealed in the Law. But the thing that moved Heaven and Earth and caused a star to appear in the east and angels to visit shepherds in Bethlehem wasn't creation or righteousness. It was God's goodness and grace, mercy and compassion, love and forgiveness, bound up in the baby Yeshua (John 3:16).

Jesus was born in a stable with a bunch of animals standing by. This was *not* an auspicious beginning, by any human standard. So now, for your eternal benefit, let me give you my expert analysis, insight and understanding of what happened next.

The angels were looking down from Heaven, and for the life of them, they couldn't understand why God was acting so weird. How on Earth could He send His only begotten Son into the world and have Him born in the most deplorable conditions possible? One of the angels just couldn't take it anymore, so he sneaked out while the others weren't looking and raced down to Bethlehem. He found the only group of people that was awake at that time of night - a bunch of shepherds watching over their flocks to keep wild animals from attacking them. Suddenly, out of nowhere, the angel appeared, and coming from the presence of God, the glory of God was all over him. As you can imagine, the shepherds were scared out of their wits, but the angel felt compelled to share the good news of the Saviour with them. He said:

Luke 2:10-12 ... I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For **there is born to you** this day in the city of David **a Savior**, who is **Christ the Lord**. ¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

In other words, the angel was saying, “Don’t be fooled shepherds. This baby in the manger is here incognito. He’s actually God Almighty, manifested in flesh” (1 Tim. 3:16)!

And while he was delivering this message, his buddies in heaven realized he’d taken off and figured out where he’d gone and what he was doing. So, they took off after him.

Luke 2:13-14 And suddenly [*these guys travel FAST!*] there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ “**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!**”

Here’s the most important point I want to make today about why we glorify God, and how we glorify God: We glorify God because He is our Saviour, and He has rescued us from sin’s death penalty. That is a powerfully good reason to glorify God! And the best way for us to glorify God is to take a page out of the angels’ book and share the “gospel” – the “good news” of salvation with everyone we possibly can.

“You shall call His name Yeshua, for He shall save His people from their sins.”

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

When we consider these scriptures, I hope they spark a great surge of praise and thanksgiving in our hearts toward God, so that we will glorify Him as He deserves!

And yet, sharing the gospel isn’t the only way in which we can glorify God. Among other ways:

- We glorify God through obedience and submission to His will for our lives: (E.g.: prophecy of Peter's death – John 21:19; Jesus submission to His own death – John 17:4).
- We glorify Him for the amazing gifts of the Spirit He gives us: (E.g.: 1Cor. 12:4-11; Rom. 12:6-8)
- We glorify Him for deliverance and healing: (E.g.: Ex. 15:1-18 (Israel after crossing the Red Sea); Luke 17:12-18 (one leper who returned to give thanks))
- We glorify Him for His unwarranted lovingkindness toward us: (E.g.: Psalm 115:1)
- And we inspire others to glorify God by the good works we do (Matt. 5:16).

Every day we live needs to include a component of glorifying our great God. He deserves to be glorified *in* our lives, and *through* our lives.

Let's make one last point as we go beyond the excitement of angelic announcements and consider the daily grind we often find ourselves in. Coming toward the end of Peter's life, here's what he wrote:

1 Peter 4:12-16 Beloved do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part, He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. ¹⁶ Yet *if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God* in this matter.

This is the reality most of us experience. But there's more to life than what we see and experience every day.

The book of Revelation tells us about the risen Christ returning to Earth in His glory, accompanied by His saints who have triumphed over great tribulation (like the things Peter alluded to in this scripture). In fact, it gets much more graphic when we read accounts like Hebrews 11 that speak about the heroes of faith that stood for God and lived victorious lives in the face of horrendous trials and tribulations. When we join with that group in this world, it allows us to join with the redeemed group John writes about in Revelation 7:

Rev. 7:1-4,9-17 After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. ² Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³ saying, "**Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God** on their foreheads." ⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred *and* forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel *were* sealed.

God has not forgotten His people Israel. They will take their place front and centre before the throne of God in Heaven. But they're not the only ones. John said:

⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living

creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying: “Amen! **Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen.**”

When we speak about glorifying God, this is what it looks like, and this is what it sounds like. Angels and elders, Jews and Gentiles raising loud voices to God in a symphony of praise and adoration, glorification, thanksgiving and worship before the Lamb’s throne. He’s the One who’s taken away the sin of the world and given us good news to share.

Of course, there’s no need to wait. We can glorify God right now!

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” ¹⁴ And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. ¹⁶ They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

This is the final outcome of glorifying God. Eternal joy, peace, and love in the presence of our Lord. I can tell you; I am looking forward to that day! I’m going to glorify God now so I can glorify Him then. In the midst of hardships and trials, however tough and challenging they may be, I’m going to glorify God *in* my life and *through* my life. God has been amazingly good to me. And I hope you will join me as

we glorify Him with the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name (Heb. 13:15).

Songs:

Glorify The Lord (Eb)

<https://www.google.com/search?q=sandra+crouch+glorify+the+lord&oq=sandra+crouch+glorify&aqs=chrome.0.0i355i512j46i512j69i57j0i512.15764j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:ec2807ba,vid:P-e3x50TG24>

Every day Is a Day of Thanksgiving (Eb)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ooK66xOpZg>