

# The Glory of God

We cannot be wise unless we learn to ask three questions –

1. Where did I come from?
2. Why am I here?
3. Where am I going?

First is obvious – we are here

Third is conditional; we decide

Second determines third

Mk.9<sup>7</sup> And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”

2 Pt.1<sup>17</sup> For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

<sup>18</sup> And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

John: Jews missed it again –

- Jn.1<sup>14</sup> And the Word became 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.
- Jn.2<sup>11</sup> This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

John: Jews missed it again –

- Jn.11<sup>4</sup> When Jesus heard that, He said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.
- Jn.11<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?

John: Jews missed it again –

- Jn.12<sup>41</sup> These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him . . .  
<sup>43</sup> for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

# Hebrews 1

<sup>1</sup> God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.

# I. God's Glory Is Not Based On...



# 1. Kingdoms of men

- Mt.4:8, fake promotion
- Mt.6:29, Solomon's Temple (Herod's)
  - Where are they now? (Mt.24)

## 2. Prestige (worldly fame)

- Mt.6:2, fake promotion (James and John)
- Mk.10:37, They said to Him, Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.
- Ac.12:23, Herod's fatal pride

## 2. Prestige (worldly fame)

- Ro.5:4, character:
  - Experience of going through a test with special reference to result: strength that comes from severe testing.
  - Ph.2:22, proven worth

“When affliction is met with fortitude, out of the battle a man emerges stronger, and purer, and better, and nearer God”

- 2 Co.2:9
- Ja.5:7-11

### 3. Religious fervor

- Ac.22:11
  - Irony: Saul thought he was glorifying God by slaying His people. Now his physical eyes are blind but his spiritual eyes have opened wide!

## 4. Wisdom of world

- Ro.1<sup>21</sup> 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...  
<sup>23</sup> changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man — and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.
- Ex.32:4
  - Greek thought: ‘know yourself’
  - Biblical thought: 1 Chr.28:9

## 5. Goodness of men

- Ro.3:23
  - All sinned (miss mark)
  - Fall short. Mt.19:20; Lk.15:14
- Glory of God:
  - His praise / approval, Ro.2:29
- Jn.5:44 How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?
- Jn.12:43 ...they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

I. God's Glory Is Not Based On...

II. *Why Are We Here?*

## Businessman: make money

- Am.8<sup>5</sup> When will the New Moon be past,  
That we may sell grain? And the Sabbath,  
That we may trade wheat? Making the  
ephah small and the shekel large,  
falsifying the scales by deceit...



# Hedonist: have fun

- Lk.12...<sup>19</sup> eat, drink, be merry
- Lk.15...<sup>23-24, 29, 32</sup>
- 1 Tim.6<sup>17</sup>
- Hb.11<sup>25</sup>
  - Satan entices people with illicit 'fun'
    - Ja.1<sup>14</sup> But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.
  - God offers better, safer way

# Philanthropist: help people

- Lk.22<sup>25</sup> And He said to them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.'
- Benefactor – one who does good deeds; became t.t. for bene·factor-protector of city or people.

## Politician: get votes / please electorate

- Ac.12<sup>1</sup> Herod the king stretched out *his* hand to harass some from the church.  
<sup>2</sup> Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword
- A true politician

# Christian: glorify God

- Rv.4<sup>11</sup> You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.
- “Why am I here?”

I. God's Glory Is Not Based On...

II. Why Are We Here?

**III. We Glorify God By  
Hearing His Voice**

# Christian: glorify God

- Jer.42
- Scriptures do not distinguish God's spoken voice and His written voice.

Ac.13<sup>27</sup> For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the **voices** of the Prophets which are **read** every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him. (Also, 44, 48-49)

- Jewish response to Jesus = rejection of their own prophets.

## Mt.7:24-27

Conclusion to greatest set of principles

- **Sincerity:** <sup>1</sup>hears (both hear; one profits).  
Ac.7:...57; 22:22. Ja.1:19
- **Submission:** <sup>2</sup>does (what He commands)
  - Mt.13, sower:  $\frac{3}{4}$  heard without profit
  - 23: one was different: responded ... fruit
- **Steadfastness:** <sup>3</sup>hears / does = present tense
  - Hb.2:1. Ja.1:25
- **Separation:** <sup>4</sup>does not do them.
  - Hear Him, 17:5.