

**GIVE GOD  
THE  
GLORY**

## GIVE GOD THE GLORY

February 17, 2013

**Sermon in a sentence: God receives the glory He most dearly desires when we respond to His outlandishly outrageous and stunningly gracious offer of salvation.**

**Scriptures: 1 Ch. 16:8-36; Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23; Rom. 5:8; Rom. 10:9-10,13; Rom. 5:1; Rom. 8:1,38-39; Heb. 2:1-9; Ps. 79:8-9; Ps. 62:5-8**

**The scriptures listed above from the epistle to the Romans form what is often called the “Roman Road” to salvation. They neatly encapsulate the story and history of humanity, outlining our sin dilemma and God’s solution to our dilemma.**

**Romans 3:23 tells us that “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”.**

**And so we ask: “what is this ‘glory of God’ that we have come short of”?**

**When we speak of glory as it relates to God, we are speaking of His majesty, His honour, His greatness, His holiness, His grace, His power etc. – in short, all the divine attributes of God. The Hebrew word *kabod*, one of the main words translated ‘glory’ in our English Bible refers to a great ‘heaviness’ i.e. the overwhelming weight, the heaviness and the magnitude of majesty that accrues to God.**

**So when Paul says all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, we must view it in the light of who God is, and in the light of His original design and intent for us – to be His image-bearers – reflectors of His glory!**

**When God Himself, any angelic spirit, or indeed any other human being looks at us, they are meant to immediately think of God. We were created to reflect His glory to our world.**

**When Eve, Adam (and every sentient human being thereafter) committed their first sin, they immediately came short of the glory of God. They immediately fell from the place of holiness, purity and power that God intended for His image-bearers. So now, when people look at us in our sinful state, they do not see the true image of God that He desires them to see. What they see are sinners who have come short of the glory of God.**

**After the sin in the garden, God immediately went to work to remedy this awful situation and restore us to our former glory as His image-bearers. This now became the focus of His interaction with humanity.**

**He took the skins of innocent animals to cover the shame that Adam and Eve were experiencing – the shame of nakedness, because of the impurity of sin. Blood was shed; life was sacrificed on their behalf to allow them to continue living.**

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**When we think of God’s intention and purpose regarding the display of His glory, it is not to simply promote Himself as a means of self-aggrandizement – simply to show off His own divine attributes. He derives glory that is meaningful to Himself only as it is seen in and through us. Martha Munizzi had it totally right when she wrote the lyrics to the song “I was created to make Your praise glorious!” It really excites Him to see His glory in us.**

**Yes, God’s glory is seen in His creation, in His visible manifestations (e.g. the cloud and fire that led the children of Israel in the wilderness), and in the miraculous works He does for the benefit of His people: healings, deliverances and divine provision to supply their needs.**

**But there is a much greater glory He desires to display in us!**

**I know you may refer back to Isaiah’s statement in 48:11 of his book, that God does not give His glory to *anyone*! It is strictly reserved for Himself. Yet there are numerous other verses throughout scripture that speak of the glory God makes available to us as human beings. Therefore we must read and understand the context in which Isaiah was speaking and conclude that **the glory God will not share is that which He receives from His role as the sole Saviour of humanity.****

(Discuss Abraham Maslow’s concept of self-actualization (from his 1943 paper: “A Theory of Human Motivation”) as it relates to God’s salvific work at Calvary, culminating with the words: “It is finished”!)

**And the glory we receive comes from being willing, joyful, thankful recipients of the incredible gift of “eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”!**

**So, to return to our ‘sermon in a sentence’: God receives the glory He most dearly desires when we respond to His outlandishly outrageous and stunningly gracious offer of salvation.**

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**Let’s look at this from another angle. We were created to reflect God’s glory and to have an eternal relationship with Him. This was meant to be a relationship of mutual self-**

giving love. God giving everything to us, us giving everything to Him, in an “agape” exchange. This is the type of love that is totally ‘other focused’; seeking only what is best for the one we love, without thought of self.

When we came short of the glory of God through sin, we clearly showed we did not love Him purely and perfectly. Our love was self-serving, not self-giving. He could no longer have the intimate fellowship and communion with us that He desired, since He can only associate with those who are ‘holy as He is holy’ (1 Pet. 1:15). Therefore our relationship with Him was eternally severed, as illustrated by the writer to the Hebrews: “Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14).

Sin forced God to do what He hated to do: turn away from His own children, His beloved creation, His formerly perfect image-bearers.

This separation from God means death to humanity – both spiritually and physically. We were designed to “live, move and have our being” in Him. Now, because of sin, our physical bodies get weak, sick and old, and we eventually die. And spiritual death means that our access to God has been severed because of sin, sentencing us to an eternal existence devoid of contact with Him, which is hell.

We were in a horrible situation, without even realizing it. We were “*dead in trespasses and sins*” (Eph. 2:1, *emphasis added*); see also Col. 2:13).

The ‘Roman Road’ scriptures tell the story of God’s response to our death. They first remind us that all of us have sinned against God (Rom. 3:23), and the result (or ‘wages’) of these sins is death (Rom. 6:23a). However, “while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8),

**making it possible for us to be resurrected; born again to eternal life (Rom. 6:23b)!**

**And the glory God truly desires to receive is bound up in the response of people like us saying “yes” to His mercy, “yes” to His grace and “yes” to His salvation. He desires that we respond to His initiative toward us, receiving His full and free salvation through Jesus Christ. He wants to restore us to the place He originally designed for us to occupy: as His loving image-bearers.**

**Heb. 2:1-9 NASB For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away *from it*. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, 3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will. 5 For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. 6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, “WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM? 7 “ YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; 8 YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET.” For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. 9 But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, *namely*, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. 1--For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in**

bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

Eph. 1:3-6 NASB Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

So we pray:

Ps. 79:8-9 NASB Do not remember the iniquities of *our* forefathers against us; Let Your compassion come quickly to meet us, for we are brought very low. 9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; And deliver us and forgive our sins for Your name's sake.

God's 'name' is very important to Him. His name represents His reputation, *who* He is, *what* He has done and what He *will* do. His name goes before Him. Even before He shows up, people know what to expect of Him. He has a reputation, and the part of His reputation He is most concerned to preserve is to be known around the world as the Saviour of humanity, uniquely and exclusively.

He has the name and reputation of "Saviour" because He has already saved multiplied millions of people. From all backgrounds and situations. From every kindred, tribe and tongue. He has saved many just like you, (and many much worse than you)!

It will give Him great glory if you accept His gracious offer of salvation *today*, without doubt or delay.

**Ps. 62:5-8 NASB My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him. 6 He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be shaken. 7 On God my salvation and my glory *rest*; the rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. 8 Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.**

**We deny Him glory of being our Saviour if we say we're too sinful for Him to save.**

**We deny Him glory if we say we'll clean ourselves up first before coming to Him.**

**We deny Him glory if we say, "I'm not ready, come back another day".**

**We deny Him glory if we say, "I'm too young. I want to taste what the world has to offer first."**

**We deny Him glory if we say, "I don't believe any of this stuff. Jesus isn't real, and I refuse to accept the testimony of those who claim He has saved them".**

**We deny Him glory if we say, "I do believe everything the Bible teaches about Jesus, but I don't really need to be bothered about responding to His offer right now. If I feel like it someday, I guess I'll come to Him, but right now, I have my life to live".**

**We deny Him glory if we say anything other than "Come into my heart Lord Jesus. Come in today. Come in to stay. Come into my heart Lord Jesus".**

**God receives the glory He most dearly desires when we respond to His outlandishly outrageous and stunningly gracious offer of salvation.**

**Songs:**

**I Was Created To Make Your Praise Glorious (Martha Munizzi)**

**Glorify The Lord, Praise His Holy Name**