

“God Made Us for His Glory”
(Romans 11:36)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

Last week, we saw

Where our strength –

As believers in Christ –

Comes from:

It comes from the Lord –

The psalmist writes, “How blessed is the man *whose strength is in You*” (Ps. 84:5).

He wasn’t talking about physical strength –

Although God is the source of that, as well:

He was the One who strengthened Samson

To execute His judgment on the Philistines;

He was the One who gave David’s mighty men

The power to defeat their enemies;

He’s also the One who gives us

The energy we have each day to do our work –

What He was talking about is spiritual strength –

The strength that comes from love.

He explained this in his next statement,

“How blessed is the man . . . in whose heart are the highways *to Zion!*” (v. 5).

When the Lord gave us His Spirit,
He created a love in our hearts for Him –
A love that gives us strength
Because it draws us out to Him –
What you love dictates the direction you go;
The strength of that love determines
The effort you'll put out to gain it;
Whatever you love the most controls your life.
If God is to have that control –
And that's what He wants –
Your love for Him must be the strongest.

If you love Him most,
You'll want to be near Him:
Like Paul, you'll want to be
Where He is pleased to reveal Himself most clearly: in heaven.
That's the direction you'll go.

Since you can't be there with Him now,
You'll want to be where He reveals Himself
Most clearly on earth: in public worship.
That's where you'll seek Him.

But since you can't meet with Him
Every day in public worship,

You'll also seek Him on that road
Where the Lord reveals Himself every day:
You'll seek to walk with Him
In the path of obedience.

B. Preview.

But there are other reasons
You'll want to walk on this path:
You will:
Because this is how you give *Him glory*,
And because it's in this path
That you find your greatest *pleasure*.
This is what we'll look at today.

This morning, let's consider
That we'll walk in this path –
We'll live the kind of life
That pleases Him –
Because we'll want to give Him glory.

Paul writes, "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. *To Him be the glory forever. Amen*" (Rom. 11:36).

Let's look at:

1. What glory is.
2. Why we should give God glory.

3. And how we can do this.

II. Sermon.

A. God made *everything* there is,

And is behind everything that happens;

And He has done it all for a *reason*:

What is that reason/purpose?

Paul tells us,

He did it all for His *glory*.

To understand this,

We first need to know

What Paul means by “glory.”

The word can mean at least two things in connection with God:

1. First, it can refer to His appearance:

To His radiance or brightness.

We read in Ezekiel 10:4, “Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the temple, and the temple was filled with the cloud and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD.”

This is the same thing Paul saw

When the Lord Jesus appeared to him

On his way to Damascus.

He says in his testimony to King Agrippa

In Acts 26:12-15, “While so engaged as I was journeying to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, at midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and

those who were journeying with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ And I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.’”

Glory can refer to the radiant effulgence

Of God’s splendor and majesty.

2. But it can also refer to God’s *reputation*:

To the *credit* He *deserves* –

The honor and praise

We are to give Him –

For what He has done.

This is what Paul is talking about

In our passage:

“To Him be the glory, forever.”

“He is the One who deserves all the praise and honor,

From now to the end of time.”

B. Why should He have this honor?

Paul tells us He should

First, because He is the One who has done everything;

And second, because this is why He’s done it.

1. First, Paul tells us that God is the One who’s done everything:

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

Everything includes creation, providence and redemption.

a. He created all things:

Moses writes, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1).

And John writes, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being” (John 1:1-3).

He made not only the things that can be seen,

But also what can't –

Paul writes, “For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together” (Col. 1:16-17).

He made everything there is:

Physical and spiritual.

b. He upholds everything –

He keeps everything He made in existence –

The author to the Hebrews writes, “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*” (1:3) –

And He moves it all forward

According to His plan –

Paul writes, “Also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose *who works all things after the counsel of His will*” (Eph. 1:11).

We call this His Providence.

c. And He is the One who –

When Adam sinned

And brought all his children,

As well as the whole of creation,

Under the curse –

Redeemed the creation –

Redeemed us –

Through His Son, Jesus.

Paul writes to the church at Colossae, “For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him *to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven*” (1:19-20).

d. Paul says *all these things* are “From Him”:

He is the *Source*.

He says they are all “Through Him”:

He is the *Agent* –

The One who has done all these things.

2. And he says they are all “To Him”:

He is the *Goal* –

He is the reason for what He has done:

He has done these things to show us *His glory*.

What are we supposed to see

When we look at His creation?

At the billions of galaxies

He's made in this vast universe?

When we look at the stars and planets?

At the many kinds of life in this world?

When we look at His greatest creation: ourselves?

We are supposed to see His glory –

His wisdom and power,

His greatness/infinity,

His eternity,

And His goodness.

And that's exactly what we see:

Paul writes to the church at Rome,

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse” (Rom. 1:20).

What should we see in His Providence –

In His upholding and moving everything –

All the events of history,

All the events in our lives –

Along according to His plan?

We should again see His glory –

In ordering everything,
By His wisdom and power,
To work together
For the growth of His kingdom
And for our good.

And what should we see in His work of Redemption?

We should see the glory
Of His grace and mercy –
The limitless love
That He has always had for us
And will show us for all eternity.

God has done what He's done
That we might see Him,
That we might come to know Him,
And that knowing Him,
We might glorify and honor Him.

C. Finally, how can we glorify God?

We can glorify Him with our words,
And in the way we live –
Even as our Lord Jesus did.

1. The first and most obvious way

We can glorify God

Is through our worship.

David writes in Psalm 22:23, “You who fear the LORD, praise Him; all you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel.”

And in Psalm 86:12, “I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and will glorify Your name forever.”

The way we typically do this

Is through prayer and praise:

By speaking of Him or to Him

The things that are true of Him –

The things He has shown us:

As we heard in our call to worship:

“Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; bring an offering and come into His courts. Worship the LORD in holy attire; tremble before Him, all the earth” (Ps. 96:7-9).

We should glorify Him in worship

As often as He gives us opportunity:

In our personal times of devotion,

And when we meet together.

2. A second way we can glorify Him

Is by living as He calls us to live

So that others can see His glory in our lives.

Jesus tells us, in Matthew 5:14-16, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 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.”

We saw a few weeks ago

That the Lord gave us His Spirit

To make us like Him.

When we live like Him,

We show the world what He is like:

We show them something of His glory.

Paul writes, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body” (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

3. And third, showing the world His glory

By the way we live

Is particularly important

When we seek to honor Him

By pointing others to Him.

This is the perhaps the most important way

We can bring Him glory:

By showing others

What He has revealed about Himself –

In the creation, in His Providence –

But especially,
By pointing them to what He has done in Jesus
That they might be reconciled to Him
And want to worship Him as well.

The last thing we should want
Is to undercut His message
By living a life
That isn't consistent with it.

So let's remember first today,
Why the Lord made us,
Why He revealed Himself to us and saved us,
And why in His plan
He works everything together for our good –
It's that we might glorify Him –
And let's do our best to do this:
In our worship,
In our lives,
And particularly,
In our pointing others
To God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.