

“How to Live for God’s Glory”
(Deuteronomy 6:4-6)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

This morning, we looked at

How our experience as believers

Should be decidedly different

Than those who don’t know Jesus:

We’ll do more than merely profess faith in Jesus,

Join with a local church,

Be baptized,

Worship each Lord’s Day,

And eat His Supper –

The Jews in the wilderness

Had the OC counterparts of all these things –

Things that could have saved them

And built them up in Christ,

If they had believed –

And yet most of them were “laid low” –

They were destroyed in God’s judgment.

As Matthew Mead put it –

In his book, *The Almost Christian Discovered* –

We can do all these things

And still be but an *almost* Christian.

There must be more:

A Spirit-empowered devotion to Jesus;

Jesus' image being formed in us;

A seeking after God's glory;

Making choices that aren't focused on what pleases us,

But finding our pleasure in what pleases God;

A sensitivity to those around us –

Not using our liberty in the Lord

To give unbelievers a reason to reject Jesus,

Or to encourage weak believers

To sin against their consciences;

But making choices

That will take away the objections of the unbeliever,

And encourage weak believers to follow our Lord.

We should see the kind of devotion

We saw in George Whitefield:

Who set aside the pleasures of life,

And the comforts of home,

To courageously preach the Gospel

In the face of opposition

From both the church and the world;

Who made many dangerous trips to the states

To preach Christ, even to the established churches,

That had become centers of dead orthodoxy,

And to establish Christian institutions

To take care of orphans.

He did these things

Because he loved Jesus

And wanted to honor Him.

It's not exactly the recipe for a long life –

He died at 55 –

But it's the kind of life

That pleases the Lord.

We may not have Whitefield's gifts or calling –

Nor that of Paul, Edwards or Spurgeon –

But if we have the Holy Spirit,

We do have his heart –

The same heart Jesus has –

And so the ability to aim our lives

At the same goal for which God made him and us:

To glorify Him and enjoy Him forever.

B. Preview.

This evening, let's consider:

How to live for God's glory,

II. Sermon.

A. That's what He tells us in our passage:

This morning, we saw what happened

To most who came out of Egypt with Moses:

The author to the Hebrews quotes the Lord through Jeremiah,

“FOR THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DID NOT CARE FOR THEM, SAYS THE LORD” (Heb. 8:9).

Here we see Moses

Speaking to the second generation –

The children of those who were in Egypt,

Who died in the wilderness –

From what he says

We see why the first generation failed

And what they must do differently,

Now that the Lord was bringing into the land.

Moses, “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.”

The first generation failed to circumcise their hearts

Through faith in the Jesus who was to come –

And so they didn't:

Love Him,

Obey His Word,

Or seek His glory.

This is the same reason

That no matter what unbelievers do,

They can never please God:

We read in WCF 16.7, “Works done by unregenerate men, although, for the matter of them, they may be things which God commands, and of good use both to themselves and others; yet, because they proceed not from an heart purified by faith; nor are done in a right manner, according to the Word; nor to a right end, the glory of God; they are therefore sinful, and cannot please God, or make a man meet to receive grace from God. And yet, their neglect of them is more sinful and displeasing unto God.”

B. If we want to please/glorify Him,

What we offer must have these three elements:

1. First, what we do/offer to Him

Must come from a heart that has been purified by faith –

It must be done in love.

The heart/affections is/are the source of all our actions –

We do only what we want to do:

Solomon writes, “Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it *flow* the springs of life” (Prov. 4:23).

If the heart is evil,

We’ll only do evil.

Jesus, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man” (Mark 7:20-23).

The reason most of what the Pharisees did

Was so offensive to God

Was their motive behind it:

To display their piety outwardly –

So that others could see and admire –

And not inwardly –

Because they loved God and wanted to please Him.

Without love, we can't please God:

Paul, "If I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing" (1 Cor. 13:3).

God wants both:

Right actions that come from a right heart:

That's why Jesus said, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also" (Matt. 23:25).

Our hearts must be cleansed by faith –

If we've trusted Jesus,

They already have been.

That's what the Spirit of God does

When He applies Christ to us:

He cleanses the wellspring of our hearts,

By infusing them with love –

This is what gives us the faith we need

To trust Jesus in the first place.

Paul, "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but *faith working through love*" (Gal. 5:6).

The fact we have this love,

Is why we want to glorify God.

2. Second, if we want to please/honor Him,

We have to do what we do according to His Word.

He gave us His Spirit

So that we might love His Word,

But He gave us His Word,

So that we might know how to live.

Paul, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

We need to study the Word,

To learn what God wants.

We should particularly study the Ten Commandments,

Because they summarize how God wants us to live.

Solomon writes in his introduction to the book of Proverbs –

A book of wisdom meant to show us how to apply the commandments –

“The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding, To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice and equity; To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion, A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel” (Prov. 1:1-5).

But we need to remember,

It’s not enough to know,

We also need to apply.

Jesus didn’t just know the Father’s will,

He did His will to honor Him –

He calls us to do the same.

The Lord says through Isaiah,

“But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word” (Isa. 66:2).

We need to take it seriously.

3. Finally, all we do needs to be aimed at His glory:

Paul told us this morning, “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31).

He writes in Colossians 3:17, “Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

And in verse 23, “Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.”

And Peter writes, “Whoever speaks, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves *is to do so* as one who is serving 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 Pet. 4:11).

God made all that He has –

He made us,

And redeemed us –

For His glory –

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

This needs to be our purpose –

The reason behind all we do.

Remember what we saw recently:

“Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever” (WSC 1).

We need to step back

And ask ourselves why we do what we do:

Why am I pursuing what I am in life –

Is it because it's what I believe God wants me to do,

Or what I want to do?

Why do I do what I do

As a husband, wife, or parent?

Am I seeking to honor God,

Or seeking the love of these?

When I pray –

When I ask for the salvation of my children,

Or my family members and friends –

Is it because I can't bear the thought of them not being saved?

Or because I want God to receive the glory for their salvation?

We may find that many of the things we do,

We do more for ourselves than for God.

That's not how Jesus lived;

Nor how He calls us to live.

If Jesus had lived this way,

We wouldn't be saved.

If George Whitefield,

He never would have brought so much honor to the Lord.

The Lord says through Paul, "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).

Let's be reminded this evening

To get our aim straight. Amen.

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