

GOD'S MISSION & YOU

Session 2: *The Story of God's Glory*

GRC ACE Class 2021

THE STORY OF GOD'S GLORY

- **What is the chief end of man?**
 - *Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.*
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- **What is the chief end of man?**
 - *Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.*
 - **What is the chief end of God?**
 - *Same answer!*
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Two Ways to Summarize God's Purpose

For His **glory** in global worship,
God purposes to overcome evil
By redeeming a people
Who will love and obey Him within every people.

God reveals His **glory** to all nations
In order to receive **glory** from all nations.

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- **Key Verses: Psalm 67**
- ¹ May God be gracious to us and **bless us**
and make his face shine on us—
² **so that** your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.
- ³ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
⁴ May the **nations** be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the **peoples** with equity
and guide the **nations** of the earth.
⁵ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶ The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.
⁷ May God **bless us** still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

GOD'S INTENT

- God blesses his people, *so that*
 - We may make Him known to others, *so that*
 - The nations & peoples of the earth will praise Him, *so that*
 - **God will be glorified.**

The Bible: the story of God's passion for His glory

- **Creation:** God created man in His image, to reflect His glory (Gen. 1:26-27, 5:1-3)
 - **Abraham:** his first acts in Canaan are to build two altars to God and worship Him (Gen. 12:7-8)
 - **Exodus:** God tells Pharaoh five times “let my people go so *that they may worship me*” (Ex. 5-10)
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The Bible: the story of God's passion for His glory

- **Conquest:** Israel is to destroy the Canaanite nations so they will not tempt them to profane God's name and worship idols (Deut. 6:13-15, 7:1-11); "God's objective was not that Israel would be the only people that worshiped Him. His point was to insure that He was the only God that they worshiped." (Steven C. Hawthorne)
- **Temple:** was to be a house not for man but for God's name (I Chron. 22:10, 29:1)

The Bible: the story of God's passion for His glory

- **Isaiah:** “I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,
⁷ to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

⁸ “I am the Lord; that is my name!
I will not yield my glory to another
or my praise to idols.” (42:6b-8)

The Bible: the story of God's passion for His glory

- **Habakkuk:** “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” (2:14)
- **Zephaniah:** “From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, my scattered people, will bring me offerings.” (3:10)
- **Malachi:** “‘My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations,’ says the Lord Almighty.” (1:11)

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The Bible: the story of God's passion for His glory

- **Jesus' plea:** "Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." (John 12:28)
 - **Paul's calling:** "to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:16)
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The Bible: the story of God's passion for His glory

- **Philippians:** “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (2:10-11)
- **New Jerusalem:** “The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.” (Revelation 21:23-26)

The Bible: the story of God's passion for His glory

- “Although there is something deep within our fallen nature that longs for moral imperatives and directives, the guidance of Scripture will frequently be more indirect than direct. ... By way of example, **missionary zeal may pour forth from a right application of the Psalms’ overpowering message of the majesty of God** rather than from a direct command to go out and disciple the nations such as is found at the end of the Gospels.” (Bryan D. Estelle)

Missions and the Church

- “It is insufficient to proclaim that the Church of God has a mission in the world. Rather, *the God of mission has a Church in the world.*” (Tim Dearborn)
- “Mission was never intended to be an exhausting human enterprise. Mission is our privileged participation in the lifegiving action of the triune God.” (Tim Dearborn)

How does God's passion for His glory help you to understand missions?

The Purpose, the Goal, the Fuel, the Reason for Missions: Worship

- “Missions is not the ultimate goal of the Church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides for ever.” (John Piper)
- “It is impossible to love ‘the lost.’ You can’t feel deeply for an abstraction or a concept. ... It is not primarily out of a compassion for humanity that we share our faith or pray for the lost; it is first of all, love for God.” (John Dawson)

The Purpose, the Goal, the Fuel, the Reason for Missions: Worship

- “The ultimate foundation for our passion to see God glorified is his own passion to be glorified. ... The deepest reason why our passion for God should fuel missions is that God’s passion for God fuels missions.” (John Piper)
 - “There will be no big world vision without a big God. There will be no passion to draw others into our worship where there is no passion for worship.” (John Piper)
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THE STORY OF GOD'S GLORY

The Reformed Faith and Missions

“The **glory of God** was Calvin’s motivating factor for evangelizing and engaging in missions. When the gospel is proclaimed throughout the nations, God will bless it and build His church everywhere. Charles Chaney writes, ‘The fact that the **glory of God** was the prime motive in early Protestant missions and that it has played such a vital part in later missionary thought and activity can be traced directly to Calvin’s theology.’

“**Divine glory** is what Calvin’s Reformed evangelism was all about, and that is what our evangelism must be about. May God help us speak and live evangelistically **for His glory**, to obey His Word, to look for open evangelistic doors, and to pray with Calvin: ‘May we daily solicit thee in our prayers, and never doubt, but that under the government of thy Christ, thou canst again gather together the whole world ... when Christ shall exercise the power given to him for our salvation and for that of the whole world.’” (Joel Beeke)

Doxology: Romans 11:36

- “God is the source of our salvation; it is through his grace and power that salvation becomes a reality in our lives; and to him, accordingly, all the glory is due. *He is the source, accomplisher, and goal of our salvation.*” (William Hendriksen)
- “What mind but God’s mind could think out a plan of salvation that would redeem ruined man? Who, but God could display wisdom that would make full provision for the needs of all mankind? Who else, but God, would care for those who hated Him?” (Donald Grey Barnhouse)

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Doxology: Romans 11:36

- “He [*Paul*] hence infers, that our being should be employed for his glory: for how unreasonable would it be for creatures, whom he has formed and whom he sustains, to live for any other purpose than for making his glory known?”
(John Calvin)

*For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen.*

Reactions and Feedback

- What questions or comments do you have?
 - Has this changed your perspective on missions? How? In what way(s)?
 - How can you share the story of God's glory? In what ways can you participate in missions?
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