

STEPS TO GLORIFYING GOD

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

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Luke 2:8-14

1. The Apostle Paul made it clear that you and I are to live the totality of our lives with an eye to glorifying God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

2. This simple verse implies that it is within the realm of possibility for a person to live his or her life in such a way that the entirety of one’s life glorifies God.

3. For that to happen certain things need to be true, and this message will focus on three of those realities.

I. Awe.

A. In the passage we just read we see a multitude of the heavenly host (angels) praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

B. Angels are created beings who serve God in various capacities.

C. In writing about our great salvation Peter stated that the angels do not have the ability to fully understand God and His ways. 1 Peter 1:10-12

As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — **things into which angels long to look.**

D. What they know of God they have heard or seen.

E. Think about the things angels have been witness to related to the power and purposes of God as His redemptive plans unfolded.

F. Then think about what they must have thought and wondered about as an angel of the Lord was sent to Zacharias and Elizabeth to tell them they would have a special son, and then when the angel Gabriel was sent to Mary and then to Joseph to announce the birth of the Messiah.

G. Think of their wonder as Christ rose from His throne, emptied Himself, and embraced the will of God the Father related to becoming our Redeemer. Philippians 2:1-11

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

H. Here the heavenly host could no longer contain their wonder and awe, and they had to give voice to that wonder and awe.

NOTE: A few thoughts.

1. When the angels exclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest," they were saying that attributes of God's nature were being revealed through the Incarnation that no other act of His could have revealed.
2. Adam Clarke wrote, "The design of God in the Incarnation was to manifest the hidden glories of His nature, and to reconcile men to each other and to Himself."
3. Something is wrong in our life if God's dealings with us have not produced some degree of wonder and awe.

II. Ability. Matthew 6:9-13

"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 'Give us this day our daily bread. 12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]"

- A. Those who are in awe of God are going to want to see Him glorified and exalted.
- B. They are going to want to see His Kingdom and righteousness advanced among men.
- C. They are going to want to see God's will accomplished on the earth to the same degree it is in Heaven.
- D. Their prayer lives will reflect these priorities, and their lives will as well. Matthew 6:33
"But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."
- E. Our prayer lives are an accurate reflection of what we worship and really care about, and those who actually want to see God glorified and exalted will pray accordingly.

III. Actuality. John 17:1-5

Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, 2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. 3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

- A. The word actuality speaks of something that is actually true.
- B. If our view of God is what it ought to be, and our prayer life is what God wants it to be, then our lives will glorify and exalt God in actuality, just like Jesus' did.
- C. Note Jesus' declaration in verse 4, "I glorified You on the earth having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do."
- D. Ultimately we glorify God by accomplishing the work He has given us to do, whatever that work may be.

APPLICATION

1. Sadly many people have a defective view of God, and that defective view defines their lives.
2. May God's dealings with us produce in us a deep sense of awe, and may that deep sense of awe lead to a deep desire to see God honored and glorified.
3. May that deep desire to see God honored and glorified be clearly reflected in our prayer lives and our everyday lives.