

Eternity Daily Bible Study

"Walking As He Walked": Living By Christ's Commandments

Studies in this series can also be found online at www.globalchristians.org/walkchrist/

Topic: 5 – What Is Your True Glory?

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One day Moses asked to see God's glory and God took Him to Mt. Sinai and put Moses in a cleft of the rock and revealed His glory:

Exodus 34:5-8 ESV *The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. (6) The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, (7) keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." (8) And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.*

Moses had asked to see God's glory, and as it unfolded, the Lord listed His moral attributes such as His mercy, faithfulness and justice. God's glory is His character. Our glory is our godly character. Our glory is not in our wealth, power, fame, position, titles, education or good looks rather our glory is in how much our character resembles the character of Jesus Christ. A godly street-sweeper is far more glorious than a wealthy but evil dictator!

1 Timothy 4:8 MKJV *For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable to all things, having promise of the present life, and of that which is to come.*

Godly means being "like God", and yes, we are to be "like Him" (1 John 3:3), even in the very image of God's beloved Son!

Romans 8:29 ISV *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

In fact after our basic human needs are met we are to be entirely content with godliness! Being like Jesus is to be our chief good, true glory and only aim. Nothing else counts!

1 Timothy 6:6-8 MKJV *But godliness with contentment is great gain. (7) For we brought nothing into the world, and it is clear that we can carry nothing out. (8) But having food and clothing, we will be content.*

God's primary interest is in our eternal glory and not necessarily in our temporal and earthly success. Some of God's greats have been men and women of very humble circumstances in this life. The heroes of faith were persecuted, sawn in two and so on (Hebrews 11). The apostles were "exhibited as last of all...as men condemned to die" but possessed God's true glory:

1 Corinthians 4:9-13 MKJV (9) *For I think that God has set forth us last, the apostles, as it were appointed to death; for we have become a spectacle to the world and to angels and to men. .. We are made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.*

We need to understand what true glory is. There is only one true glory and that is being like Christ. Everything else is just "passing away". Paul was content with his role as an apostle, even though he had little or no "success" in human terms because he had such a clear understanding of what true glory was.

We need to be content with this life and be actively seeking glory in eternity. Instead of being envious and discontent with our house, car, job or position in society we should be at rest. The things of this world will pass away. We should be people of faith who totally focus on that which is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 MKJV (16) *For this cause we do not faint; but though our outward man perishes, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. (17) For the lightness of our present affliction works out for us a far more excellent eternal weight of glory, (18) we not considering the things which are seen, but the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are not lasting, but the things which are not seen are everlasting.*

2 Corinthians 5:7 MKJV *for we walk by faith, not by sight;*

If we are to stay on track in the Christian life we have to have the right goal. If we want to be like Jesus, then we have the correct aim in life.

Psalms 27:4-5 MKJV *One thing I have desired from Jehovah, that I will seek after: that I may dwell in the house of Jehovah all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of Jehovah, and to pray in His temple. (5) For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His shelter, in the secrecy of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me up on a rock.*

Many Christians fall away because a wrong life goal pulls them off the rails e.g. when someone who is desperate to get married chooses a non-Christian partner. We need to reason ourselves into staying on the right track. We need to argue against the world and its allurements. We need to see clearly that our character is our glory and that our obedience is our honor. We need to look at sin and turn away saying "No, it is just not worth it, and it never will be worth it, because sin decreases my glory and honor for all eternity".

If someone tells a lie and as a result becomes a millionaire they have not increased in glory. Instead they have sold their soul for Mammon and covered themselves in shame.

People will do "almost anything" for human glory such as a promotion at work or a chance to be on TV. Lies, immorality and bribery are common tactics. Statistics indicate that about 30-50% of people lie, fib or otherwise deceive on their resumes. This has entered the church with "very elastic" numbers being used for crusade or church attendances. Churches and ministries are throwing away God's glory in order to seek human glory! This was also a problem in Jesus' day:

John 5:44 MKJV *How can you believe, you who receive honor from one another and do not seek the honor that comes from God only?*

We have to make a strong personal decision to renounce the seeking of human glory and to only seek God's glory and eternal glory! The verses John 5 above say that we are to seek the honor that comes from God. In Romans Paul tells us how to do so:

Romans 2:7 *indeed to those who with patience in good work are seeking for glory, and honor, and incorruptibility, everlasting life.*

Those who want God's glory have to be "patient in good work" which implies they will be steadfast in staying the course, and staying on the right track. There will be no jumping off the rails into works of the flesh. They will not get impatient with their lack of status in this world but will be content with the status that comes from being in the image of God.

We need to be consistent in doing faith-filled good works, with integrity, so that we become more and more like Jesus each and every day. As we live an obedient and reverent lifestyle staying close to God and to the Holy Spirit we are transformed "from glory to glory".

2 Corinthians 3:18 MKJV (18) *But we all, with our face having been unveiled, having beheld the glory of the Lord as in a mirror, are being changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Lord Spirit.*

Our glory and honor are not found in how financially successful we are, or in the position we hold in church or in the committee positions that we attain to. There is nothing less important than being important. Instead godliness is of great importance!

Your glory, honor and esteem come from God and are related to your obedience, your character and your seeking of eternal things. You need to rewire your thinking around that concept. Your ambition must be a heavenly ambition, to be found in Christ! Your glory will be what motivates you and if you know your true glory is your godliness then you will be motivated to be holy. If you are confused about what your true glory is you will seek all sorts of glory here and there, in all the wrong places.

Blessings,

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