

Subject: *Glory to God Alone*

Scripture: *Romans 11:33-36*

We could not have a greater theme to consider than the glory of God. Here in the Book of Romans, Paul is concluding the doctrinal part of his epistle, and he gives us a passage that focuses on the glory of God.

The Bible speaks of God's glory in two ways: His essential or intrinsic glory and His ascribed glory. His essential glory is that which belongs to Him by nature. It is the sum of all He is; it is the full character of God. The essential glory of God never changes. It cannot be increased or diminished; it cannot be altered or changed in any way. God has revealed His glory to us.

When Moses prayed, *I beseech thee, show me thy glory (Exodus 33:18)*, he asked far more than anyone could ever ask. And God granted his request, at least in part, by revealing some of His glory.

The Bible also speaks of God's ascribed glory. This is what the holy angels and redeemed people give to Him by their worship, and by the way they live. This doesn't add anything to His glory, but it is a proper response for all He is and all He does. This is what we find in...

1 Corinthians 10:31 *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

God reveals His glory in two main ways: in creation and salvation.

1. God reveals His glory in creation

We can learn a lot about the Creator from His creation of things and people.

A. God's glory is revealed above us

Psalms 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.*

Romans 1:20-21 ²⁰ *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

B. God's glory is revealed around us

Isaiah 6:1-3 ¹ *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. ² Above it stood the seraphim: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. ³ And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

C. God's glory is revealed within us

Psalms 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

2. God reveals His glory in salvation

This was the focus of the Reformers. The salvation of sinners is by God's grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone.

When Martin Luther and others took a stand for the Word of God and the Gospel of Christ, Christianity had become man-centered instead of God-centered. The Reformation was a time of putting things right, putting the focus on God and His glory.

Nicolas Copernicus challenged the long held view that earth was the center of the known universe. Through his research he showed that the earth actually orbited around the sun and therefore the sun was the center of things. His findings led to what was called a Copernican Revolution, a new way of thinking correctly about the universe. That's what happened in the spiritual world during the Reformation. Everything revolves around God and not man.

Salvation reveals the glory of God, not the glory of man. Salvation glorifies God because it reveals His attributes (character qualities, perfections).

- A. Salvation reveals God's love and grace – **Romans 5:8** *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Why did God allow sin to enter the world? God was able to reveal His justice in punishing sin and His grace in forgiving sin.

- B. Salvation reveals God's wisdom – **Romans 11:33** *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*

In salvation God is able to forgive sin and maintain His justice at the same time.

- C. Salvation reveals God's power – **Romans 1:16** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*
- D. Salvation reveals God's righteousness - **Romans 1:17** *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*
- E. Salvation reveals God's sovereignty – God the Father planned salvation; the Son purchased it; and the Holy Spirit applies it. God is the initiator, He is in control from start to finish.

Romans 8:28-30 ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Romans 11:36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.