

e-concepts

A Weekly Publication of Relational Concepts Inc.

GOD'S GLORY IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

By David DeWitt

God's glory is His intrinsic value. There are **three practical works** of God on behalf of believers which express God's glory, His intrinsic worth, in the outworking of His purpose in our lives.

The Glory of God in Salvation

Ephesians 1 mentions three times, in verses 6, 12, and 14, in the context of explaining God's redemptive plan, that it is all **to the praise of His glory**. Redemption means *He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world* (v. 4); *He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself* (v. 5); *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses* (v. 7); *in Him also we have obtained an inheritance* (vv. 10-11); and *you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise* (v. 13). The entirety of God's redemptive plan is projected toward **the praise of His glory** for such an all-encompassing deliverance from sin and judgment.

According to this passage, a salvation which entails every necessary work to absolve sinners, is *to the praise of God's glory*. It is not praises from believers to God for redemption, but praise to God's glory in His essential glorious being. Hoehner comments that the interjections of praise to God are "not describing a human's glorious praise of God's grace but rather one's praise of God's glory...the praise of God's glory for His grace...or to the praise of God's essential being for His gracious quality" (Hoehner, *Ephesians*, pp. 201-202).

The Glory of God in Sanctification

In 1 Corinthians 6:20, Paul declared *for you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body*. After warning believers to avoid fornication (v. 18), he says we have a moral obligation to God, since we now belong to Him by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit (v. 19). Based on that Biblical rationale, believers purchased by God's plan of redemption must *glorify God in your body*. So how are we to manifest the intrinsic value of God with our bodies? We do that by not participating in sexually immoral acts (vv. 16-18). It is God's glory that governs our sexual sanctification.

Additionally, *whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God* (1 Corinthians 10:31). Contextually, Paul argues that refraining from, or participating in, certain revelries must be governed by *doing all to the glory of God*. God provides a check on our sanctification freedom by obligating us to consider the path we choose, based upon an understanding of the glory of God applied to that situation. Constable asks, "What glorifies God? Consideration for the consciences of other people and promotion of their wellbeing does. This contrasts with the observance of distinctions between foods, the satisfaction of one's personal preferences, and insistence on one's own rights. What glorifies God is what puts **His preferences, plans, and program first** [emphasis added]" (Constable, *1 Corinthians*, Soniclight.com).

The Glory of God in Consummation

In Philippians 2:9-11 is the declaration *God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*. At the end of the age, it is Christ's reputation and honor in His global kingdom reign over the nations of the earth that will be established and flourish.

This exaltation of Jesus Christ will be comprehensive in nature. God the Father has already raised His Son to the height of exaltation through His resurrection, ascension, and glorification in heaven (v. 9). Jesus has been given such a highly exalted position for the purpose of every being in the universe bowing in submission to His authority (v. 10). A universal verbal confession of the lordship of Jesus will then accompany the symbolic physical submission (v. 11). **God's intrinsic value is bound up within the consummation of Christ's comprehensive reign and the universal submission accompanying it.**