

GLORY BE TO GOD! – Pt. 1

GSM- 10/14/09

I. What is most important to God?

A. Write down your answer on a sheet of paper

B. What is most important to God is what He places first place and places preeminence upon. What is most important to God is the most important thing in the universe.

C. Your answer to this question will determine your focus and center in life. It will cause a certain paradigm to develop in your life. The wrong answer to this question develops a paradigm that is wrong and will twist everything else in your life.

D. Today I want to lay down a scriptural case for what is most important to God and then look how that impacts us in our Christian walk

II. The most important thing to God

A. Most people answer the question, "What is the most important to God?" with the answer: **PEOPLE ARE.**

B. If man is the most important to God then man holds the highest place in the universe and is first place with God. This answer says man is what is pre-eminent. This answer is not substantiated in scripture.

C. Man is VERY important to God, but man is not the most important to God. If we believe people are most important to God then we get a man centered paradigm.

D. What then is most important to God? It is God's name or His glory!
If we believe God's name and glory are most important then we will have a God centered paradigm.

E. Let's look at the scriptural case for this answer to the question, "What is most important to God?"

III. The name and glory of God is most important to God

A. God saved Israel for His name's sake and not primarily for them

Psa 106:8 Nevertheless He saved them for His name's sake, That He might make His mighty power known.

B. God did not cast away sinful Israel for His name's sake and not for them

1Sa 12:22 For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you His people.

Isa 48:9 "For My name's sake I will defer My anger, And *for* My praise I will restrain it from you, So that I do not cut you off.

Isa 48:10 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

Isa 48:11 For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do *it*; For how should *My name* be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.

Eze 20:8 But they rebelled against Me and would not obey Me. They did not all cast away the abominations which were before their eyes, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. Then I said, 'I will pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.'

Eze 20:9 But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles among whom they *were*, in whose sight I had made Myself known to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt.

Eze 20:22 Nevertheless I withdrew My hand and acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the Gentiles, in whose sight I had brought them out.

Eze 20:44 Then you shall know that I *am* the Lord, when I have dealt with you for My name's sake, not according to your wicked ways nor according to your corrupt doings, O house of Israel," says the Lord God.' "

C. God promises the New Covenant for His name's sake and not primarily for us

Eze 36:22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord God: "I do not do *this* for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went.

Eze 36:23 And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I *am* the Lord," says the Lord God, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes.

Eze 36:24 For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.

Eze 36:25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

Eze 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

D. God leads and guides us for His name's sake and not primarily for us

Psa 23:3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

Psa 31:3 For You *are* my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and guide me.

E. God forgives sin for His name's sake, and not primarily for us

Psa 25:11 For Your name's sake, O Lord, Pardon my iniquity, for it *is* great.

Psa 79:9 Help us, O God of our salvation, For the glory of Your name; And deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, For Your name's sake!

Dan 9:19 O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

1Jn 2:12 I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

F. God's primary reason for saving us in the New Testament is not for us, but for the praise of His glory. Mentioned three times for the glory of the Triune God!

Eph 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Eph 1:12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Eph 1:13 In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Eph 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, **to the praise of His glory**.

H. Jesus taught His disciples to pray and what is mentioned first in the prayer is what is most important to God.

Mat 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

I. We receive answered prayer for His name's sake and not our own!
God answers prayer for His glory!

Joh 14:13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

IV. The Riches of His Glory

A. God's name contains His glory

Psa 115:1 Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.

B. God has exalted His Word above His name because your name is only as good as your word. He exalted His word to establish His name and glory.

Psa 138:2 I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

C. God watches over and is careful to maintain his name and glory because God ministers out of and from His glory. God reveals and showers His goodness upon his creation out of His glory, so that is why His glory must be first in importance.

Eph 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

Eph 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Php 4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

D. We are called to God's glory and His glory will provide for us throughout eternity

2Th 2:14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the **obtaining of the glory** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

V. Giving God glory

A. When we give God glory, our faith is strengthened.

Rom 4:20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

B. Giving God glory is a key to receiving from God His fullness

C. Our praise and glorification of God is like evaporation. It rises towards the heavens and then from God's glory it falls back upon us in goodness and blessings. We each can glorify God and then receive back from the riches of that glory.

D. The Greek word for glory is **doxa**. This word means to have weight or to be heavy. [I have a lot of glory!] When we cause our praise to rise to God then the weight of His glory will rain down upon us.

E. Throughout the Bible God brought deliverance and victory to His people when they glorified him in praise and worship.

F. Worship glorifies God. True worship glorifies God for who He is. It is not self centered. Praise can become self centered because it focuses on what God has done or does for us. True worship however focuses on who God is and His worthiness for exaltation.

H. Giving our lives as a living sacrifice glorifies God. To be a living sacrifice we cannot be living for ourselves.