

Philippians 3:1–11 (ESV) *1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. 2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— 4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

MPS: **The glory of God is the goal of God in everything** (goal – not as an ambition as if it's in question whether God hits his goal – BUT more like the objective God WILL reach)

INTRO:

- For these five weeks, we're learning about the Five Solas: five Latin phrases (or slogans) that emerged during the Protestant Reformation to summarize the Reformers' basic theological convictions about the essentials of Christianity – in particular, salvation - in contrast to certain teachings of the Roman Catholic Church of the day.
- If you're a professing Christian who is not Catholic, but Protestant, then the Five Solas are undeniable and non-negotiable truths for you
- All Protestants agree on these Five Solas
 - Scripture alone is the final and decisive authority, which tells us...
 - Man justified by the grace of God alone
 - By God's grace, we are saved through faith in God alone, and not by good works
 - This saving justification is accomplished by the person and work of Christ alone
 - All of this comes from God and is done to the glory of God alone
- The RCC had allowed other things to seep in and become glory robbers. Cathedrals, garb, priests and popes were sharing (thereby robbing) from the glory of God.
- Most likely these things started off pointing to the glory of God, but along the way they got sideways.

- In modern times we see Thanksgiving in the same way – it started off with good intentions to point to the glory of God but now they are turkey day and football.
- The Reformers came in and said – “no, our salvation is for the glory of God alone – no one or nothing gets to share his glory!”
- *For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put **no confidence in the flesh***

Today we will answer 5 questions: 1. What *is* the glory of God? 2. How does God display His glory? 3. What happens to us when the glory of God becomes our chief goal in life?? 4. In what ways do we rob God of His Glory, 5. How can we return to making the glory of God our chief goal in life and in the church?

PRAYER: Father, give us a glimpse of your glory this morning in a way that is so satisfying, we re-center our lives around it.

1. What is the glory of God?

Isaiah 6:3 (ESV) 3 *And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”*

- When the holiness of God radiates out and fills the earth for people to see, it is called glory.
- Holiness means separate from – other than – unmatched – in a whole other category. God is holy – separate from His creation, other than anything or anyone else, unmatched in all His attributes, His category is God and his god-ness is like nothing else. He is holy.
- When God displays His holiness, His god-ness, it’s called His glory.
- God’s glory isn’t simply something he **has**--it’s God’s *God-ness*.
 - God makes the Rocky Mountains *glorious*--when you see them, you’re satisfied, somehow, right?
 - But the Rocky Mountains *have* glory--and they get it from God, who *is* glorious
 - You can apply that to the *sort-of* “nothing-like-it-ness” to sports or other glorious things in your life -
 - All of those things and experiences *have* glory--there’s not really anything like it...but, then...there *are* other glories like them, right? Other teams have won the championship, too.

- The only thing or person or experience that *truly* stands alone in “nothing-like-it-ness” is God...because he doesn’t just *have* glory...he *is* glorious.
- The glory of God - It’s his holiness, observed and experienced, by his Creation in a way that satisfies.

• The glory of God is the goal of God in everything.

2. How does God display His glory?

a. Trinity

“God eternally exists as three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and each person is fully God, and there is one God.”

b. The creation of the Universe

Psalm 19:1 (ESV) *1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

- This universe and everything in it is mainly about the glory of God. This is the great reason for all created existence, including yours. If someone asks you, “Why is there such a meaningless, vastness of uninhabited galaxies and only one tiny dot of human existence?” your answer should be: “This universe is not intended to portray the importance of man. It is intended to give man some inkling of the grandeur of God. And it is an understatement.” PIPER

c. The creation of man

Isaiah 43:7 (ESV) *7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”*

d. Saving Sinners –

- **Romans 15:7:** Christ has welcomed you, *for the glory of God*
- **Romans 15:9:** Christ became a servant . . . in order that the Gentiles might *glorify God* for his mercy
- **Romans 9:23:** in order to *make known the riches of his glory* for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand *for glory*

The glory of God is the goal of God in everything

3. What happens to us when the glory of God becomes our chief goal in life?

In other words, What happens to us when the glory of God is central in our lives?

- There are two--and *only* two--responses mankind has to the glory of God
 - **Satisfaction:** enjoyment, we like him, we're captivated by him, we're attracted by him, we want more of him, we become willing to do whatever it takes to be near and with him--and his beautiful and endless, majestic, and amazing holiness is what we want – its His glory that satisfies us.
 - **Dissatisfaction:** no matter where we fall on the spectrum from aloof, apathetic, negligent feelings about God--to outright, seething hatred and disgust toward God...we are dissatisfied; we want to see something different, we want something else, we want to modify or improve what we see about him; he's not good enough, right enough, wise enough, fair enough...he's just not enough; and we can kind of "take-him-or-leave-him," or we can just outright disregard and reject him

- When I ask, "What happens to 'us' when God's glory becomes our chief goal," the **us** indicates Christians...
 - It's *Christians* who are satisfied by the glory of God, revealed in Christ, his Word, and in the world around us
 - Your response to the glory of God is part of the *evidence* of your real salvation and it's part of your *testimony* to others that God has justified and saved you
 - When God reveals his glory to a Christian, that person is **satisfied**
 - When I go to Colorado, I see God's glory--revealed in the splendor of the Rocky Mountains he created
 - I feel...I'm made aware--not just emotionally, but *mentally*!--aware of just how small and insignificant I am...
 - ...and my awareness is aroused by just how big God is!
 - Do I feel **bad** in that moment? I'm suddenly diminished? Am I angry? Upset? Dissatisfied?
 - **Nobody stands in the shadows of Pike's Peak, Mount Evans, or the rest of the Rocky Mountains and says, "Look how terrific I am!"**
 - No way! I'm small and I feel *amazing*!
 - I experience the glory of the Rockies and all I want to do is *dwell* in and amongst and with that glory
 - When a Christian experiences the glory of God--truly--they are:
 - Diminished in a way that makes them *happy* and *safe*
 - Inspired to share and show to others the person who is so glorious
 - Committed to making their dwelling place--where they *live*--in and amongst and with the God of that glory

John 15:11 (ESV) 11 *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

John 17:13 (ESV) 13 *But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.*

Q: What is the chief end of man? A: To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

“God is most gloried in us when we are most satisfied in Him.” PIPER

4. In what ways do we rob God of his glory?

Isaiah 42:8: I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

Paul had something like a religious trophy case

- *circumcised on the eighth day,*
- *of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin,*
- *a Hebrew of Hebrews;*
- *as to the law, a Pharisee;*
- **6** *as to zeal, a persecutor of the church;*
- *as to righteousness under the law, blameless*

What good were his trophies?

8 *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ*

- *Skybalon* – GK for dung.
- What are your trophies that deep down give you a sense of glory? What trophies are you depending on to make you righteous?
- By setting up our own trophy case for our supreme joy. (My accomplishments, my good deeds, my success, my position... my kids, my lifestyle, my adventures) NONE of these are bad – I would even say they are good – they just don't need to be ultimate.
- If others see my glory on display I'm happy, content, joyful OR when I see my own trophy case it makes me feel good, righteous, justified, happy.... But it's not true is it? It's impossible to have supreme joy if we only gaze on the beauty of our own trophy case. We were made for more.
- If the goal of God is the glory of God in everything, we can either surrender and take part and enjoy OR be rebellious and try **satisfy yourself with your participation trophies.**

Where are you taking credit for what God has done?

5. How can we return to making the glory of God our chief goal in life and in the church?

- a. Roll up the praise to Him. (Directly TO God.)

1 Peter 2:9: But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, *that you may proclaim the excellencies of him* who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

- b. Give the credit to God. (To others ABOUT God.)

and put no confidence in the flesh

- c. Point others to the glory of God in the gospel.
- d. Remember it's not about you.