

THE LORD OF GLORY

1 Corinthians 2:8

INTRODUCTION

- Yesterday was Remembrance Day, where people around the world paused to remember those who died in war
- All over Australia are soldiers' memorials and cenotaphs in memory of the fallen; and often there will be an inscription or epitaph to sum up, across the memorial, and one of those epitaphs is "THE GLORIOUS DEAD"
- It is proper for us to highly esteem those who made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives for our sakes, as the glorious dead – their deaths were not in vain
- In our day we hear the word "glory" used mostly in relation to sports, having the meaning of "honour"
- What is glory? What is it to be glorious?
- "Glory" in Scripture denotes honour, majesty splendour, wealth
- In reference to God, it can refer to his glorious moral attributes and infinite perfections
- Glory also refers to the bliss of heaven
- Glory is translated from the Hebrew *kabod*; and the Greek *doxa*
- God has bestowed glory upon the created realm
 - ✓ The angels are glorious

- ✓ The heavenly bodies are glorious (1 Corinthians 15:40-42)
- ✓ The terrestrial creation is glorious
- ✓ Man has been crowned with glory and honour (Psalm 8:5)
- But this glory has been marred by sin
- All the glory found in the creation is intended to point us to the glory of the God who created it (Psalm 19:1)
- But idolatrous man has rather chosen to glorify the creature instead of the Creator (Romans 1:20-23)
- Another word that is associated with God's glory is *Shekinah* (literally "residence") – this word is not found in the Bible but was used by the Jews to express the visible majesty of the Divine Presence, especially when dwelling between the cherubim on the mercy seat of the temple
- This visible glory of God filled the tabernacle and temple at their dedication (Exodus 40:34-35; 1 Kings 8:10-11)
- God's glory is so great that mortal man cannot behold it without being destroyed (1 Timothy 6:16; John 1:18)
- When Moses requested to see God's glory, he was told that he could not see God's face, but could see his back parts (Exodus 33:18-23)
- Why is important to understand God's glory?
- If we are to have eternal life in heaven, we must be able to enter into God's glorious presence (Psalm 16:11)
- To be denied entering into God's glory is to be cast into eternal hell (2 Thessalonians 1:9)

- We have all fallen short of God’s glory through sin (Romans 3:23)
- Our greatest need is to find a way to attain to God’s glory and eternal life in him
- We were created to give glory to God, therefore our chief aim ought to be to discover how we may do that
- God is highly jealous of his glory – it is idolatry to fail to render glory unto him, or to give glory to anyone or anything else (Isaiah 42:8)
- In 1 Corinthians 2:8, Jesus Christ is called “the Lord of glory”
- “Lord” in the New Testament is a translation of the Greek *kurios* – master
- In the Old Testament, both *Adonai* and *Jehovah* are rendered as “Lord” and “LORD”
- The Lord Jesus Christ is glorious, but more than that, he is the Lord of Glory!
- All glory in the universe finds its source in him; he is the chief, the head of all glory; every other glory is subordinate to his

I. JESUS IS THE LORD OF GLORY IN HIS ETERNAL GENERATION

A. Christ, as the eternal God, possesses eternal glory

1. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

2. From eternity, before anything was created, there existed the one true God, in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, equal in glory (Philippians 2:6)
 3. Jesus prayed to the Father, saying, “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” (John 17:5)
 4. Even as the Father is called “the Father of glory” (Ephesians 1:17) and the Spirit is called “the Spirit of glory” (1 Peter 4:14), so the Son is “the Lord of glory”
 5. Christ as God created all things (John 1:3) and in him all things consist (Colossians 1:17)
- B. The Son has the peculiar role in the Godhead of being the expression and manifestation of God
1. This is seen in his title “the Word” (*ho logos*) – which conveys the idea of the Divine Expression
 2. Hence, when God has manifested himself to man, it has been through the Son
 3. The “angel of the LORD” in the Old Testament, also known as the “angel of his presence” (Isaiah 63:9), is a theophany and Christophany – a pre-incarnate appearance of the Son of God
 4. When Isaiah was permitted to see Jehovah upon his throne (Isaiah 6:1), it was Christ he saw (John 12:41)
 5. Christ is the brightness of God’s glory (Hebrews 1:3)
 6. God gives “the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:6)
- C. Christ is the *Shekinah Glory* of God

1. In James 2:1, Christ is called “the Lord of glory”, yet in this case the word “Lord” was added by the translators
2. In the Greek it simply reads, “our Lord Jesus Christ, the glory”
3. What glory is this? It is that supreme glorious presence of the Almighty God, which dwells between the cherubims of glory (Hebrews 9:5) – the Shekinah Glory

II. JESUS IS THE LORD OF GLORY IN HIS HUMBLE INCARNATION

- A. In his coming into this world in human flesh, Christ laid aside his glory, yet he remained the Lord of Glory
 1. “He made himself of no reputation” (Philippians 2:7), from the Greek *kenosis*, which means to “empty”
 2. By leaving the glory of heaven and entering this world as a Man, Christ took certain limitations upon himself, and laid aside certain aspects of his divine glory; yet always remaining fully God
 3. There is false teaching regarding this *kenosis*, where some claim that Jesus gave up some or all of his divine nature when he came to this world
 4. Our text in 1 Corinthians 2:8 astonishingly states that even as Jesus was nailed to the cross, in the deepest state of humiliation and degradation, he remained the Lord of Glory!
- B. During his earthly ministry, though his glory was veiled, it was displayed by his words and works

1. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)
2. His miracles showed his glory (John 2:11; 11:4,40)
3. His teachings showed his glory (Mark 1:22)
4. His transfiguration showed his glory (Matthew 17:1-5; 2 Peter 1:17)
5. His death showed his glory (John 13:31-32; 17:1)

III. JESUS IS THE LORD OF GLORY IN HIS BLESSED EXALTATION

A. His resurrection showed his glory

1. It declared him to be the Son of God with power (Romans 1:4)
2. He defeated death and Satan (Hebrews 2:14)
3. He is become the firstfruits of all believers, guaranteeing our resurrection also (1 Corinthians 15:20)

B. His ascension showed his glory

1. His ascension to heaven was accompanied with a shout and with the sound of a trumpet (Psalm 47:5)
2. He ascended to the right hand of God (Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11)
3. Now in glory he sits in his Father’s throne (Revelation 3:21)

4. His present visage is so glorious it rendered the apostle John prostrate as a dead man (Revelation 1:13-17)
 5. The angels and saints render glory to him in heaven (Revelation 5:12)
- C. His second coming will be glorious
1. He will come from heaven with power and great glory (Matthew 24:30)
 2. Psalm 24 calls Christ the “King of glory” who will enter the gate of Jerusalem (Psalm 24:7-10)
- D. His kingdom will be glorious (Psalm 72:17)
- E. He will be eternally glorious in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:23; 22:5)

CONCLUSION

1. The greatest problem that man faces is the fact that we all fall short of God’s glory
2. Though many have attempted to attain to God’s glory by their efforts, it is all in vain
3. If we are to be brought to God’s glory it must be by the power and grace of God
4. Christ has made this provision through his blood, that those who trust in his sacrifice will be saved from their sins and reconciled to God
5. It is Christ’s purpose to bring “many sons to glory” (Hebrews 2:10)

6. Only Christ is “able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 24)
7. To those who have received the free gift of eternal life through Christ, God performs his work of sanctification in us, changing us into his likeness, “from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18)
8. Even as we suffer in this life, we look forward to the incomparable glory that awaits us in heaven (Romans 8:18)
9. Now, our duty is to “do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31), in our body and spirit, which are God’s (1 Corinthians 6:20)
10. There are many ways whereby we may glorify Christ
 - ✓ By believing in him
 - ✓ By confessing him before men (Psalm 96:3)
 - ✓ By praising him (Psalm 50:23)
 - ✓ By defending his truth
 - ✓ By showing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives
 - ✓ By worshipping him
 - ✓ By suffering and dying for him (John 21:19)
 - ✓ By being faithful to his church (Ephesians 3:21)