

Lighthouse Bible Church

November 16th, 2014

Psalm 86: 1 – 12 *Scripture Reading: 2nd Thessalonians 1: 3 - 12*

‘Glorifying God with Thanksgiving’ Pt.#1

Stand – Read – Pray

If you are a born again believer here today, then your ultimate purpose, as a Christian, is to glorify God with your life, with what you think, say and do. And part of glorifying God is in giving Him thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do in our lives.

The scriptural mandate to glorify God with our lives is clear and repeated over and over again in the Bible. In **Psalm 86: 12** it says **I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart and I will GLORIFY Your name forevermore. Romans 15: 6b says that you may with one mind and one mouth GLORIFY the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1st Chronicles 16: 29 says give to the Lord the GLORY due His name**

That mandate and command in Scripture to glorify and thank God can only be possible if you are one of His children, if you have been born again, if you have received the truth of His Word in your life. And your desire should be to want to glorify and thank God because He has revealed Himself to you and called you to Himself in salvation.

That kind of attitude of glorifying God and being thankful to Him is foreign to the unbelieving world, even though they are aware of God, know about God and His truth, and experience many of the blessings of God, they still don't glorify God nor are they thankful to Him.

You say, how does an unbeliever know about God and His truth? Well, because **Ecclesiastes 3:11** says that **God has put eternity in their hearts.** Look at **Romans 1: 18 – 20** through *Creation Read*. Look at **Romans 2: 14 - 15** through their conscience + **Romans 3: 20** which says **therefore by the deed of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.** . And then read **Romans 1:21** which says **although they knew God they did not GLORIFY Him as God nor were they THANKFUL.** That is they typical attitude of an unbelieving world.

As a matter of fact, when you look at **2nd Timothy 3: 1 – 3** and how Paul describes living in the last days, we are living in those last days. He says **but know this, that in the last day perilous times will come. Men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, UNTHANKFUL, unholy, unloving, unforgiving** and the list goes on.

You say, ok, that makes sense to me that they know God and should glorify Him and be thankful to Him but there not. But how does an unbeliever experience many of the blessings of God with which they are unthankful for.

Listen to what **Luke 6: 35** says. **But love your enemies, do good and lend hoping for nothing in return and your reward will be great and you will be sons of the Most High, FOR He is kind to the unthankful and evil.**

Matthew 5: 44 – 45 says **but I say to you, love your enemies bless those who curse you do good to those who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven FOR He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust..**

Psalm 145: 9 says the Lord is good to ALL and His tender mercies are over all His works.

In **Acts 14: 17** after Paul and Barnabas performed a miracle and the people were hailing them as gods and them telling the people to turn to the living God, says **He did not leave Himself without witness in that He did good and gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.**

Later in **Acts 17: 25** it says **nor is He worshipped with men's hands as though He needed anything since he GIVES TO ALL LIFE, BREATH and ALL THINGS.** As a matter of fact, just a few verses later, **Acts 17: 28** he says **in Him we live and move and have our being.**

So the unbelieving world knows about God and experiences some of the blessings of God and yet they will not glorify Him as God nor are they thankful. So my questions this morning is; what about us? Do we glorify God and are we thankful to Him? So what I would like to do this week and next is to look at how to glorify God and how to express our thanksgiving to Him.

Most of us would probably say that it is our hearts desire to glorify God and certainly be thankful to Him, but you might say 'I am not sure if I am or how I go about doing that'. So let's look at what the Scriptures have to say, first of all, about how we can glorify God and bring glory to Him. If that is our highest calling and command in scripture, then I want to know how to do that, don't you?

By the way, in **2nd Corinthians 3: 18** it tells us that **we are beholding, as in a mirror, the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory... Explain** So how does that happen in my life?

First of all, you must purpose in your heart that that is what you want to do in your life; to glorify God. That is what Jesus did. In **John 8: 50** Jesus said **I do not seek My own glory** but My Father's glory. His life was consumed with that, even to the point that He wanted to glorify His Father in His own death in **John 17: 4 – 5.**

Remember what **1st Corinthians 10: 31** says **whether you eat or drink or whatever you do (what) do all to the glory of God.** It is not just about eating or drinking but it is a life focus of glorifying God, even in the everyday, mundane things of life like eating and drinking.

It is asking myself the question; do I want to glorify God with my life more than anything else? Whether it is with my spouse, children, family, at work, in worship or whatever. Is it an all-consuming purposeful act, in every area of your life, to glorify God, to bring attention to Him, to magnify Him, to exalt Him, to honor Him, to show His attributes and character in your life.

And sometimes, that comes at a price, doesn't it? You remember back in **Exodus 32** and the story of the golden calf. Moses had gone up on the mountain to get the law of God and Aaron and the rest of the people were in the camp breaking those very laws. They made a golden calf and began to worship it instead of God and God's glory was at stake in the eyes of the enemies of God.

So in order to preserve His honor and glory, God says through Moses in Chapter **32: 26** **whoever is on the Lord's side, come to me!** Whoever wants to glorify Me, and follow Me and obey Me, come over here. If you commit to glorifying Me, it will cost you, just like it may today.

And you know the story; it goes on to say **all the sons of Levi**, the tribe of Levi, **gathered themselves to Moses.**

And then God said through Moses in **Verse 27**: **let every man put his sword on his side and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp and let every man kill his brother every man his companion and every man his neighbor.** You want to glorify Me? Go kill your brother, your companion and your neighbor. Not your enemy, but your friends, your family, those close to you.

And the amazing thing in **Verse 28** they did just that and that day they killed **3000 people.** They obeyed the voice of God for the glory of God, no matter what the cost and then look what happens as a result in **Verse 29** **consecrate yourselves today to the Lord that He may bestow on you a blessing this day.** Always with obedience for the glory of God bring **blessing.**

These Levites were willing to glorify God even if it meant the severing of their family, friends and neighbors. Now, because we live in an age of grace, we certainly wouldn't be asked to do something like that...hopefully. But the point is; are you willing to live your life for the glory of God no matter what the cost?

There may be a price to pay among your family or friends or co-workers or acquaintances or neighbors when you commit to living for the glory of God. Look at **Matthew 10: 32 – 39**

Listen, it is not only in the family or among non-Christians but in the Christian church family as well where there may be swords, drawn, symbolically. Sometimes you may even separate Christian friends when you take a stand for the glory of God and they are more willing to compromise or are ignorant of God's glory in it or how to glorify Him. Your life can become a rebuke to them and if they are not mature spiritually, that may cause problems.

As we saw at the conclusion of the book of John, Jesus told Peter repeatedly to follow Him, to glorify Him, in essence, by his obedience, then Jesus told Peter in **John 21: 18 – 19** you are going to die by crucifixion and **glorify God** in your death ... so follow Me.

From a man who denied Jesus 3 times after saying he would die with Him and for Him, Peter now is committed to following and glorifying God and Christ no matter what it cost; and as we saw last time, it did cost him his life. But before he died he wrote in **1st Peter 4: 14, 16** **if you are reproached for the name of Christ, for the glory of Christ, blessed are you for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. on their part He is blasphemed but on your part He is GLORIFIED ... if anyone suffers as a Christian let him not be ashamed but let him GLORIFY God in this matter.**

One evidence that you truly want to glorify God above all else is when you feel pain or righteous anger when God is dishonored. That which you love the most you feel the most empathy and pain for. Like your spouse or one of your children are in pain, you empathize with them and feel it along with them in your heart. You agonize over their pain or whatever it is that has come into their life.

Do you feel the same empathy and sympathy or righteous anger. for God when He is reproached, maligned and dishonored. David wrote in **Psalm 69:** **9** **the zeal for Your house has eaten me up and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.** And of course that was applied to Jesus in **John 2: 13 – 17** when He went into the temple to clean it out because it brought a reproach and dishonor to God and then it says **his disciples remembered that it was written ‘the zeal of Your house has eaten Me up.** He was consumed with God being glorified as we should be.

To have a zeal for something is to have a passionate affection for something, in this case God, along with a righteous indignation when He is reproached.

We cannot be or remain indifferent about God and Christ. Either we desire to glorify Him with our lives because we have such a passionate love for Him and a righteous indignation when He is maligned or reproached, or we live in indifference and apathy and a spiritually insulated stupor where nothing affects us.

So what are some practical ways that we can bring glory to God in our lives? Well, first of all, we can glorify God when we Confess our Sins. Do you remember the story of Joshua and the taking of Jericho in Joshua 7? They were told not to take anything and **Achan** stole a Babylonian garment, some silver and some gold and buried them under his tent.

Joshua confronts Achan in 7: 19 and listen to what he says **my son, I beg you give GLORY to the Lord God of Israel**. How is he going to do that? The rest of the verse tells us; **and make confession to Him** and in Verse 21 Achan says **I have sinned against the Lord God with what I have done**.

How is God glorified in that? Because Achan had taken responsibility for his sin and he didn't blame anyone else but himself. So when God judges him for his sin no one is going to accuse God of being unjust when He judges sin. And then God is viewed as a holy God who does not tolerate sin and that reputation brings glory to Him. And of course He is the same today and He is glorified because sin was dealt with when He judged His Son on the cross satisfying His justice against us.

So when we sin today and confess our sin 1st John 1: 9 says **He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness**. And if He chooses to chasten us we will not say that He is unjust and if He doesn't and shows you grace, you will be reminded of His mercy and in His character of being just, gracious and merciful, He is glorified.

Daniel said in **Daniel 9: 5, 20** we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Then he says in **Verse 20**: while I was praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people..

All throughout scripture you see people confessing their sin before God and bringing glory to Him because when we confess our sin it puts on display His holy wrath against sin and it puts on display His merciful grace to the sinner.

So how else to we glorify God? We do so by trusting Him. When we say we trust God, He is glorified in our actions that show that we do trust Him. But when we say we trust Him and then our life is characterized by doubt and fear and anxiety, people can then say ‘if you trust God so much, why do you live in doubt or fear or whatever’. Look at **Romans 4: 18 – 20** glory to God.

Trust and faith in God brings glory to Him. Any unbelief is an affront to God. For God to make a promise to you and for you to question it or not trust Him or be anxious about it is to question His character.

Philippians 4: 19 says my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Do you believe that and live like that or do you worry about what you need. Jesus said in **Matthew 6: 31, 34** do not worry about what you shall eat, drink or wear or worry about tomorrow. Do you trust Him enough to not worry about those things, because if you don’t and if you doubt and fear and are worried, you are not trusting that God can do what His word says He will and you deny Him the glory due His name. He is worthy to be trusted and believed for what He says and promises and for His glory when you do.

And if you do trust God, are you willing to trust Him in the most adverse of circumstances. It is one thing to say you trust Him and it is another thing to trust Him in the midst of pending tragedy.

Remember in **Daniel Chapter 3** where Hanania, Azariah and Mischel, Shadrak, Meshak, Abednego, were threatened with being thrown into the furnace. They said in **3: 17 – 18** **our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace and He will deliver us from your hand O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.**

They trusted in God to deliver them from the edge of the burning fiery furnace or out of the furnace and that is the kind of faith that honors God. God is honored and glorified when we say that we will trust Him when we face tragedy in our lives, in our families, whatever it might be and say ‘I trust God’ because He is too wise to make mistakes and too loving to be unkind and too powerful to have anything beyond His control. And that glorifies God.

How else do we glorify God. In **John 15: 8** says **by this My Father is GLORIFIED that you bear much fruit.** God is dishonored when we bear little to no fruit and is glorified when we bear MUCH fruit. It says in **Philippians 1: 11** **being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Christ Jesus to the GLORY and praise of God.**

You bear fruit in leading someone to Christ **Romans 1: 13** says, you bear fruit in giving **Philippians 4: 17** says, you bear fruit in every righteous deed **Colossians 1: 10** says, you bear fruit with your lips in praise and worship **Hebrews 13: 15** says. Then there is the fruit of the Spirit in **Galatians 5: 22 – 23**. **Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.**

The other side of that is; when someone says they believe and follow God but their life does not evidence that, or they live in hypocrisy, or continually break God's law or have a do as I say and not as I do attitude like in **Romans 2: 17 – 24** then Romans 2: 23 says **God is dishonored** and in Verse 24 **His named is blasphemed**. Disobedience dishonors God and obedience honors Him, its that simple.

That is why Jesus said in **Matthew 5: 16** **let your light so shine before men that they may see your GOOD WORKS and GLORIFY your Father in heaven.**

2nd Thessalonians 1: 11 – 12 says that God would count you worthy of this calling and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the WORK of faith with power. THAT the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be GLORIFIED in you. So that God can be glorified in the way you live your life.

Another way we can glorify God is when we Praise Him. **Psalm 50: 23** says **whoever offers praise glorifies Me** God says. It is an act of worship that glorifies God. **Psalm 86: 9** all nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You O Lord and shall GLORIFY Your name. **Psalm 86: 12** says I will praise You O Lord my God with all my heart and I will GLORIFY Your name forevermore. In **1st Chronicles 16: 29** it says we are to give the Lord the GLORY dues His name and we do that it says by **bringing and offering and worshipping Him**. Praise and worship of God is simply recounting His works, and His words and giving Him thanks for both.

Well, another way to bring glory to God is through prayer. Remember what Jesus said in **John 14: 13** **whatever you ask in My name that I will do THAT the Father may be GLORIFIED in the Son**. God wants to answer your prayer, not so much for you but for Him and His glory to be displayed in the answer.

You glorify God when you use your spiritual gifts. **1st Peter 4: 11** **If anyone speaks let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies THAT in all things God may be GLORIFIED ...** there are speaking gifts and serving gifts that we are called to use and for His glory.

You can glorify God when you abstain from any form of sexual immorality because God and the Spirit of God live in you and that is why **1st Corinthians 6: 20** says **for you were bought at a price therefore GLORIFY God in your body and in your spirit which are God's.**

I share all of this because I want us as His people of Lighthouse Bible Church to say what it says in **Ephesians 3: 21** **to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever** and in order to do that we must do what **Psalms 34: 3** says **O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together.**

And if you are here and claim to know God but are not glorifying Him or thankful to Him as **Romans 1: 21** says, then you are a fool and He will darken your heart and your thoughts will become futile and empty and you will be given up to your uncleanness and vile passions and a debased mind. So repent, turn away from the lie that you exchanged for the truth of God and receive His forgiveness today so that you can glorify Him.

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Introduction:

Psalm 86: 12, Romans 15: 6, 1st Chronicles 16: 29

The unbeliever knows about God and his truth:

Ecclesiastes 3: 11, Romans 2: 14 – 15, 3: 20, 1: 21
2nd Timothy 3: 1 – 3

The unbeliever experiences the blessing of God:

Luke 6: 35, Matthew 5: 44 – 45, Psalm 145: 9
Acts 14: 17, Acts 27: 25, 28

Transformed into the same image from glory to glory:

2nd Corinthians 3: 18, John 8: 50, 17: 4 – 5, 2: 13-17
1st Corinthians 10: 31, Psalm 69: 9

The potential cost of glorifying God

Exodus 32: 26 – 29, Matthew 10: 32 – 32
John 21: 18 – 19, 1st Peter 4: 14, 16

Ways to glorify God in our lives:

Joshua 7: 19 – 21, 1st John 1: 9, Daniel 9: 5, 20, 3: 17-18
Romans 4: 18 – 20, Philippians 4: 19, Matthew 6: 31,34
John 15: 8, Philippians 1: 11, *Romans 1: 13, Phil. 4: 17,*
Colossians 1: 10, Hebrews 13: 14, Galatians 5: 22
Romans 2: 17 – 24, Matthew 5: 16, 2nd Thess. 1: 11 – 12
Psalm 50: 23, 86: 9, 12, 1st Chronicles 16: 29, John 14: 13
1st Peter 4: 11, 1st Corinthians 6: 20, Ephesians 3: 21
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