

Theme: We were made for glory but our sin brought us shame and we have no way to cover ourselves. We must look to one who can take away our shame and restore us to a place of blessing and glory.

Advent Series Introduction

Introduction: When things don't work as promised.

I. Made for Glory

A. Made with a purpose (1:26-28,31)

1. With authority
- And responsibility

2. Fruitful labor – work! (2:15)

NOTE: Work is good; it is not a result of the curse/fall.

B. Made for relationship

1. With the Creator (3:8)
2. With one another (2:23,24)
- A “shameless” relationship (2:25)
3. And *very* good! (1:31)

C. The crown of Creation

1. Bearing God's image (1:26-28,31)
- Psalm 8
- 1 Corinthians 11:7

NOTE: Their glory was their reflection of the grace of God in them and their reflection of his nature.

2. Made for a purpose
- Glorify God and enjoy him forever
- 1 Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 73:25-28

II. Fallen From Glory

A. Disobedience (3:6-8)

1. New knowledge
- Knowing there *is* evil
- Knowing in *themselves*
2. Shame
- Why mention “not ashamed” in Genesis 2:25?
- Because we all face shame
- Fear of exposure

3. Work (fruitful engagement and its blessings) becomes *work*
 - Fulfilling your desires will bring pain

B. In rapid descent

1. Adam to Lamech (4:23,24)
2. When our “shame” becomes our “glory”
 - Hosea 4:6,7; Ephesians 5:3
3. They “grieved” God (6:6)
 - God doesn’t “change his mind” (Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29)
 - He is always “grieved” by sin (Jeremiah 18:10; 1 Samuel 15:11)

C. Judgment – glory lost (6:7)

1. Death reigns (Romans 6:23; Luke 12:5)
 - A picture of judgement
2. Satisfaction denied
 - Lasting value, honor and respect, peace?
 - Not found outside of obedience

But aren’t we supposed to be talking about Christmas??

III. Exposed to God’s Glory

A. To our destruction

- Shame: derision, contempt, humiliation
- Complete exposure (Luke 8:17)

B. To life (6:8)

1. Restoring glory to God’s creation
 - Heart of the gospel?
 - The glory of God revealed in flesh and blood
(John 1:14; John 17:22-24)
2. Covering the shame of a rebellious people (Luke 4:18,19; Isaiah 61:1-7)
3. A new beginning (6:9)
 - Finding *favor* with God (Philippians 2:13)
 - Life freed from shame
 - The glory of the image of God

Is that **your** story?