

02-14-2016

Message: A Final Reminder of the Purpose for Which We Exist

Text: 2 Peter 3:13-18

Introduction

- A. At the end of Peter's second letter to the churches, Christ inspires Peter to stir us up once more by reminding us in summary form of what he has previously urged and exhorted us to do in this letter - guard, grow, & glorify.

2 Peter 3:17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your **guard** so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,¹⁸ but **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the **glory**, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

- B. We are to be on guard for false teachers/teachings, and be on guard for our hearts that we not find their teachings attractive and be carried away and fall from our steadfast faith in Christ Jesus.

- C. Instead we are to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. (Ball illustration: If it is rising, it is not falling. If it is not rising, it is falling - no plateauing.)

1. We are to grow in our experience of God's Spiritual, saving grace, which only believers experience.
2. By this grace we are to grow in the knowledge of Jesus, not simply in informational knowledge of Jesus, but in the experiential knowledge of Jesus - what it is like to in measure love as He loves, forgive as He forgives, be humble as He is humble, suffer for the sake of righteousness as He did, serve as He served.
3. Growing in the grace of Jesus and in the experiential knowledge of Jesus are necessarily linked. It takes the grace of the Lord's power to live increasingly, experientially like Jesus.

2 Peter 1:3 ... **His divine power** has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, **through the true knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and excellence.

2 Peter 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, **in your faith supply moral excellence**, and in *your* moral excellence, **knowledge**,⁶ and in *your* knowledge, **self-control**, and in *your* self-control, **perseverance**, and in *your* perseverance, **godliness**,⁷ and in *your* godliness, **brotherly love**, and in *your* brotherly love, **love**.⁸ For **if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- D. While growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ is the antidote to falling away from Him to our eternal destruction, our salvation is a means to an even bigger end than being saved for our own soul's sake. The purpose for which God created us, the purpose for which God guards and saves us is the glorification of Christ, that the Father might be glorified in His Son.

2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of **our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity.** Amen.

1. The Hebrew word "kabod (pronounced "kavod") which we translate "glory," has at its root meaning "weighty" or "abundance." If a bag of gold is "kabod" or weighty, it has great worth. So to speak of the glory of Christ is to speak of the infinite worth of all that He is and all that He does. To glorify Him is to manifest, magnify, affirm the worth, the surpassing value of all He is and does.
2. The Greek word for "glory" is "doxa," from which we get the word "doxology," an ascription of glory to the Lord, often at the end of a passage or letter such as 2 Peter 3:18b.

I. God's purpose in all creation is to glorify His Son as God, and Glorify Himself in His Son.

- A. God has always been a Triune God, a Trinity - Father, Son, Spirit, one God existing in three persons. Until a little over 2,000 years ago, none of the members of the Godhead existed in any form other than eternal spirit. But when the Father created a human body and soul for His Son and gave him the name "Jesus," the Son emptied Himself, not of his divinity (He remained God), but of aspects of His divine glory, such as immortality, in order to become a servant to God and to us, in order to redeem us by His death on a cross. And so Jesus, the God-man, lived with us on earth without all of the glory that had been His from eternity past. This is why the Scriptures speak of Jesus as not yet being glorified.

Philippians 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,⁷ **but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.**⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

John 7:39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, **because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

- B. God's purpose is to glorify His Son Jesus, as God. Jesus is God, but in His human existence, His glory as God is not yet fully revealed. His body was weak being mortal, it is now raised immortal. He was subject to earthly rulers, He is now risen above them,

having received all authority in heaven and earth.

John 8:54 Jesus answered, "... **it is My Father who glorifies Me**, of whom you say, 'He is our God';

John 17:1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; **glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You**, ... ⁵ "Now, Father, **glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was**.

C. In glorifying Jesus, God Himself is glorified.

John 13:31 Therefore when he (Judas) had gone out, Jesus said, "**Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him;**

II. How God glorifies His Son

A. God, through His works and words, revealed Christ's glory as God to people during Christ's earthly ministry.

Matthew 9:6 "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins "-- then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home."⁷ And he got up and went home.⁸ But when the crowds saw *this*, **they were awestruck, and glorified God**, who had given such authority to men.

2 Peter 1:17 For when **He received honor and glory from God the Father**, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased "--

B. God raised Jesus from the dead to reign at His right hand.

Acts 3:13 "The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, **the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus**, *the one* whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him.¹⁴ "But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and ...¹⁵ ... put to death **the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead**, *a fact* to which we are witnesses.

1 Peter 1:21 who through Him are believers in God, who **raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory**, so that your faith and hope are in God.

C. God gave the divine name "Yahweh" (Lord) with all authority and power to Jesus.

Isaiah 45:23 "I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in

righteousness and will not turn back, that **to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.**²⁴ "They will say of Me, 'Only in the **LORD (Yahweh)** are righteousness and strength.' Men will come to Him, and all who were angry at Him will be put to shame.²⁵ "In the **LORD (Yahweh)** all the offspring of Israel Will be justified and will glory."

Philippians 2:9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him **the name which is above every name,**¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus **EVERY KNEE WILL BOW,** of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and that **every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,** to the glory of God the Father.

D. God gave the divine power to save, judge, and raise the dead to Jesus.

Matthew 25:31 "But **when the Son of Man comes in His glory,** and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.³² "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

2 Thessalonians 1:7 ... when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,⁸ dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.⁹ These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,¹⁰ **when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day,** and to be marveled at among all who have believed-- for our testimony to you was believed.

John 5:21 "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, **even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.**²² "For not even the Father judges anyone, but **He has given all judgment to the Son,**²³ **so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father.** He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

E. God made Jesus High Priest forever to intercede for us. He is humanity's only access to God.

Hebrews 5:5 So also **Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him,** "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU";⁶ just as He says also in another *passage*, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

III. How believers cooperate with God's purpose to glorify His Son, and Himself in His Son.

A. How do we glorify the Lord?

1. By worshiping the Lord in sincerity of heart.

Psalms 29:2 **Give to the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in holy adornment.**

Psalms 66:2 **Sing the glory of His name; Make His praise glorious.**

Proverbs 14:28 **In a multitude of people is a king's glory,** but in the dearth of people is a prince's ruin.

Psalms 86:9 **All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and they shall glorify Your name.**

2. By proclaiming Christ among the peoples of the earth.

Psalms 96:3 **Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.**

3. By becoming a product of His transforming grace

Galatians 1:23 but only, they kept hearing, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy."²⁴ **And they were glorifying God because of me.**

2 Corinthians 9:12 the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.¹³ Because of the proof given by this ministry, **they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ** and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,

4. By becoming content with whatever circumstances the Lord appoints us to endure for His glory.

John 9:1 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.² And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?"³ Jesus answered, "*It was* neither *that* this man sinned, nor his parents; **but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.**

John 11:4 But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, **but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.**"

5. By becoming obedient to Christ as Lord, imitating His obedience to His Father.

John 17:4 **"I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.**

John 15:8 **"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.**

Matthew 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that **they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.**

6. By serving the Lord in the strength He supplies, so that he receives glory.

1 Peter 4:11 Whoever speaks, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; **whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ,** to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

7. By enduring suffering for Christ's sake, thus displaying that He is worth our self-sacrifice.

1 Peter 4:16 but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, **but is to glorify God in this name.**

8. By relinquishing all claim to our own lives, acknowledging Christ's claim to all that we are and have.

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that **you are not your own?**²⁰ **For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.**

9. By promoting for Christ's sake the ministries of others who will eclipse or replace our own ministry.

Numbers 11:29 But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD'S people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!"

John 3:30 "He must increase, but I must decrease.

- B. The ultimate purpose of our existence and salvation, now and forever, is to manifest and magnify the Lord's glory.

Revelation 4:11 "**Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory** and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**

Psalm 86:12 I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and **will glorify Your name forever.**

Conclusion: Let us guard and grow for our own souls' sake, but most importantly for the sake of

Christ's glory.

2 Peter 3:17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your **guard** so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,¹⁸ but **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity.** Amen.