

Introduction

Here we see that **Israel had lost the glory of what God had done for them!**

They had lost the LORD's Purpose in their lives!

Religion and ritualism were substituted for the **Glory of God!**

They got used to just **going through the motions of their religion** and that is exactly what they were doing!

However, **the Glory of the Lord had departed** and the truly sad part is they hadn't even noticed and they really didn't care. (Apathy)

Familiarity can—and often does—breed complacency in our lives.

Statistics reveal that most automobile wrecks happen within a 2 mile radius of home.

Work accidents happen many times because of carelessness that comes from familiarity.

Many times marriages fall apart because a spouse feels taken for granted.

There is a danger in our lives as Christians of familiarity with what we know of the truths of God's Word—both what we believe and what we practice.

They can just become "*old hat.*" We find a comfort zone that can cause us to **forget the glory of what we possess in Christ.**

Sometimes people get to where they attend Church, not out of love for the Saviour and not with anticipation to see the Glory of God at work, but for some other reason:

1. **Some attend just out of habit!** (Now, don't misunderstand me, it is a good habit to have, but it should be more than just a habit!)
2. **Some attend out of duty!** (Yes, we have a command of Scripture to not forsake the assembly, but it should mean more to us than just fulfilling a duty!)
3. **Some attend because of a relationship!** (Such as parent or spouse—But, we should be attending for more than just that!)

4. **Some attend because of friends!** (The Church is not to be just a fraternity or social club, though we do find Christian fellowship here!)
5. **Some attend to keep the preacher or someone else off their case!** (Some folks know the "*system*" well enough to know how to keep the preacher off of their doorsteps.)

Listen up, **when our attendance at Church is for anything outside of love for the Savior and an anticipation to see the Glory of God at work, then service for God becomes mundane!** It loses its freshness! We go through the motions without a view of God's purpose and plan for our lives! We lose the big picture of what God is doing around us! God is still at work in the world! And He wants His children to be involved in the work He is doing!

When our attendance to Church is for the wrong reasons, then usually our ministries, if we have any are also done for all of the wrong reasons!

Rather than working in a ministry to help see lives changed:

There are some who work to be seen and applauded of men rather than working for others to see Jesus!

There are some who work because no one else will do it! (When that happens, there is no joy to service!)

I have also seen some in Churches who work in a ministry to hide from the preaching and or teaching of God's Word!

When either our attendance to Church or our ministry in Church are for the wrong reasons, then most likely our reaction to Bible teaching and preaching will be wrong too!

The purpose for Bible study and Bible preaching is to change lives!

God wants to change your life! God wants to change my life! God wants to change the lives of those that are around us, not only at Church, but folks we come into contact with each and every day of our lives!

However, God's Word will not change us if we don't yield to what He says!

DON'T LOSE THE GLORY!
1 TIMOTHY 1:11-12; ISAIAH 1:11-20

And if **God's Word does not change us**, there is little likelihood that it will change the lives of those we come into contact with because the power of God will not be evident in our lives! If people can't see **GOD IN US**, then we probably won't be able to get them to see Him period!

We can come to Church looking to accumulate facts about a particular topic. (e.g. A popular one in our day is "*the end times*") But, what does that knowledge do for us? Does it motivate us toward godliness and service? If not, what good is it?

We can come to Church looking to accumulate knowledge so we can show others what we know without ever personally applying what we learn. God meant for His Word to become applied knowledge! (James 1:22)

We can come to Church with a bad attitude looking to find fault with what's being said or to find fault with how its being said and walk away bitter rather than better! We wind up losers!
If you come to Church looking for a reason to quit, you'll find that!
If you come to Church looking for a reason to stay, you'll find that!
The question is, what are you looking for?

Many good Churches today are full of people who may know the truth in their heads, but who are not living the truth out in their lives! Consequently, a world is headed at lightning speed to a Devil's hell!

Some folks attend Church and can't hardly wait for the final "*Amen*" so they can go back into their comfort zone with their lives full of worldliness and sin!

Preaching services are endured and sometimes we might even say "*Amen*," but the preaching fails to stir us to change because we are blinded by our own familiarity. We've heard it all before! At least we think we have!

In fact we want the preaching to be what we can say "*Amen*" to rather than "*Oh, me!*" We like the preaching that we can agree with rather than the preaching that makes us uncomfortable. We want a dose of sugar coated medicine to make us feel better and God is wanting to perform radical surgery!

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He's wanting to cut out the worldliness and sin out of our lives!

Too many of God's people have allowed Church attendance to become something other than what God intended for it to be!
Listen, God wants us to have a passion about the Person of Jesus Christ!

When we get used to going through the motions of Church without the power of God in our lives—our families knows it, our friends know it, others know it, and we should know it! But we don't!

We've put our spirituality on auto-pilot. We've put it on cruise control.

We get comfortable and let one service become as mundane as the next without ever giving one thought that God wants to change us and make us into the image of His precious Son!

And all around us people may see us come to Church and may hear us say that we're Christians—but as they watch us, if they see no difference in our lives they'll say—Its not real!! **We bring down the glory of what God could do and would do if we would just yield our lives to Him!**

We lose the vision of what Paul calls: "*...the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.*"

I. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL!
(1 Timothy 1:11)

Romans 1:16—"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

Nothing is wrong with the Gospel! The problem is with us!
It's not the Gospel that has lost its power! It's just as glorious and powerful as it has always been!

A. It Is Glorious Because Of How It Was Wrought!
Revelation 13:8—"...the lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world."

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2 Peter 1:20—Christ “was foreordained before the foundation of the world.”

2 Timothy 1:9—“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,”

B. It Is Glorious Because Of How It Was Sought!

(1 Peter 1:10-12)

1. By The Prophets.
2. By The Angels.

C. It Is Glorious Because Of How It Was Bought!

(1 Peter 1:18-19)

Don't lose the glory of the Cross!

D. It Is Glorious Because Of What It Has Wrought!

(2 Corinthians 5:21)

I have been made the Righteousness of God in Christ!

E. It Is Glorious Because Of How It Is Taught!

(1 Corinthians 1:18, 21, 26-31; 2 Corinthians 4:1-7)

II. GOD HAS COMMITTED THIS GLORIOUS GOSPEL TO OUR TRUST!

A. We Have An Obligation To Share The Gospel.

Paul said it was “committed to my trust.” (1 Timothy 1:11)

Matthew 28:18—Jesus said, “All power is given unto me in heaven and earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”

Romans 1:14-16 (Paul's three I am's)
I am debtor...I am debtor...I am not ashamed

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It is our fault if the Gospel is not shared!

It is also our fault if the Gospel is not shared **effectively** because of sin or complacency in our lives!

We Have An Obligation To Share The Gospel...

B. We Have An Obligation To Please God!

(1 Thessalonians 2:4)

1. Are We Pleasing Men?

Galatians 1:10—For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

2. Are We Pleasing Self?

*2 Timothy 3:2—men shall be lovers of their own selves.
2 Timothy 3:4—lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.*

3. Or Are We Pleasing God?

C. We Have Been Enabled By God To Do Both Share The Gospel And Please God! (1 Timothy 1:12)

God can and WILL enable us to carry out what He calls us to do if we will only allow Him to fill our lives!

God is looking for vessels unto honor that are yielded to Him for His purpose! (2 Timothy 2:19-21)

III. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR THE TRUST PLACED IN US AND THE MINISTRY GIVEN TO US! (1 Timothy 1:12)

We can show our thankfulness by what we do with what we've been given! (e.g. A gift given where someone puts it to good use VS a gift given where someone is careless or apathetic about it.)

We WILL give an account to the LORD one day of our faithfulness no matter what kind of servants we are!

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Conclusion

Let's not allow that which is "*holy*" to become "*common*" to us.

If we somehow **lose the glory of what we have**, others **will not see the glory of what we have!** Has Church just become "*Ho Hum*" to you? Just another service. How about your salvation? Have you lost the glory of what Christ has done for you and what He desires to do in and through you for His glory!?

Renew your vision of the glory today!