

Psalm 21:1-5

To Christ Be The Glory In Salvation

David wrote Psalm 21 and it has a proper historical application to him. But we must always keep in mind that David was a type of Christ in the Scripture.

His kingdom was typical of Christ's kingdom. His deliverances were typical of Christ's salvation. And David's glory was typical of Christ's glory.

John Calvin reminds us, "In Psalm 21 is shown that the safety and prosperity of the king ought to produce public and general rejoicing through the whole realm, inasmuch as God by this means intended to preserve the whole body in safety. But, above all, it was the design of the Holy Spirit here to direct the minds of the faithful to Christ, who was the end and perfection of this kingdom, and to teach them that they could not be saved except under the head which God himself had appointed over them."

Now verse 5 is key in understanding the message of this Messianic Psalm. We read, “His glory is great in thy salvation: honor and majesty hast thou laid upon him.”

The glory of God is one of the plainest and most obvious truths of Holy Scripture and must be the first and ultimate end of all things.

And this is acknowledged in Q.1 of the Shorter Catechism, “What is the chief end of man? “Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever.”

If man is to glorify God, then how does he do it?

The answer is man does so by believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We see the glory of God only in the face of Jesus Christ, our all-glorious Savior. In Christ alone the invisible God is visible!

"The glory of the gospel is that when the Church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it. It is then that the world is made to listen to her message, though it may hate it at first. That is how revival comes." D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Jesus said in John 14:9, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?"

As we behold Christ's glory, we behold all the fullness of the glory of the triune God! So great is that glory that the Lord our God has prepared and appointed a whole eternity to display it to his people.

It is written in Ephesians 2:7 "That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

Not only shall the glory of God be revealed to us throughout the endless ages of eternity; but it shall be revealed and made known to us in the person of the God-man, our most glorious savior Jesus Christ.

There is a peculiar preciousness about this everlasting revelation of the glory of God in Christ. Ephesians 1:6 tells us that the glory of the triune God revealed in Christ is directly and inseparably connected with his grace toward us.

Ephesians 1:6 “To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

The glory of Christ, in whom all fullness should dwell and the One in whom shall forever and in all things have the pre-eminence, is seen in many, many things. The glory of our God is evident everywhere.

- In Creation
- In Providence
- In The Scriptures.

However, the glory of God is seen fully in the person and work of Jesus Christ as our Savior, and that glory is most greatly revealed in his salvation.

In Exodus 33:18-19 Moses prayed, “I beseech thee, show me thy glory. (19) And Jehovah said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.”

When Moses asked Jehovah that he might see his glory, that which God showed him was his sovereign goodness in the salvation of sinners by Jesus Christ.

Here, again, in Psalm 21:5, the psalmist declares, “*His glory (Christ’s glory) is great in thy salvation.*” What a verse! Therefore, the title of my message is, **To Christ Be The Glory In Salvation!** There are two reasons from the text why Christ deserves all the glory in our salvation.

1. Because He is the King of Glory

Verse 1 we read, “The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD...”. Verse 3, “...thou settest a crown of pure gold (everlasting, pure, precious) on his head.” Verse 5, “...honor and majesty hast thou laid upon him.”

Christ is the king in verse 1.

There are three places in the New Testament where Jesus Christ is referred to as the preeminent, glorious, and great Kings of kings and Lord of lords.

1 Timothy 6:15, “Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords.”

Revelation 17:14, “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Revelation 19:16, “And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Here in Psalm 21:1 is a prophecy of our Savior’s joy as the result of the salvation which he would accomplish for His people.

When God the Son had assumed our nature, as agreed upon in the covenant of redemption, having accomplished our salvation, having entered in once into the holy place with his own blood and obtaining eternal redemption for us, “*how greatly did he rejoice!*”

What bliss, what joy, what rejoicing there is in Immanuel's heart as he sits upon his throne. His work is finished. His Father is glorified. His people are redeemed. Their salvation is certain. This was the *“joy set before him for which he endured the cross, despising the shame”* (Heb. 12:2).

Everything spoken of in our text and everything spoken of in the Word of God relating to salvation is of God, by God, and belongs to God.

Nothing relating to salvation is of man. Any man left to himself is sure to choose and to do that which is evil.

A Christian author writes, “As naturally as water runs downhill, so the will of man is bent toward hell and wickedness. If the heart and will of a man ever looks heavenward, ascends upward toward holiness, chooses Christ, comes to Christ, and follows Christ, it is because that man has been the object and recipient of God's gracious and glorious salvation.”

From the first sigh of repentance to the songs of praise in glory, salvation is God's work. We are God's workmanship. The universal testimony of Scripture is *“Salvation is of the Lord!”*

We must never presume to mingle anything of the creature with the glory of the Creator. Salvation is God's! From beginning to end, it is entirely God's work. Every believer, speaking of salvation, ascribes it to the triune God. We call our salvation, "***THY SALVATION!***"

It is God's...

- In Its Conception. God the Father
- In Its Execution. God the Son
- In Its Application. God the Holy Spirit
- In Its Preservation.
- In Its Completion.

C. H. Spurgeon writes, "When it is all finished, when every one, who ever shall be called, has been called, when every one of the Lord's elect has been regenerated, justified, sanctified, and glorified, when the whole of the blood-washed family of God shall surround the throne above, all the glory shall be given to the Lord alone."

There will be no jarring note in heaven, no whisper of human merit, (OR FREE WILL!), no claim of a reward for good intentions; but every crown shall be cast at Jesus' feet, and every voice shall join in the ascription, 'Not unto us, not unto us, but unto thy name be all the glory of the salvation which thou hast wrought out for us from first to last.' ”

We read in Colossians 1:18, “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in *all* things he might have the preeminence.”

The word *preeminence* means to hold the chief place and is used here only in the New Testament. Note the present tense (continually have first place!)

A Christian author writes, “In Christ alone the earth shall find its answer, A refuge from its doubts, its fears, its strife; This God-revealed-in-flesh, this precious Savior, Forever is the Way, the Truth, the Life!”

Jesus Christ is the preeminent Savior, not just one of many “religious leaders” of history.

It is his glory, not ours, which is great in salvation. We who are made partakers of the unsearchable riches of his grace are receivers only, not contributors. And we are all alike receivers, and equal receivers. The great have nothing to bring. The little have nothing to offer. As poor and needy sinners, We all receive from Christ mercy and grace. No one is exempt!

God's glory is the first object proposed by salvation. God is more concerned for the promotion of his glory than any of his people can be for their happiness.

If salvation is for the glory of God and God's work alone, if we cannot and must not contribute anything to it, then God's salvation is a salvation exactly suited to the most helpless, most desperate, most needy sinner there is. What stronger argument can there be to persuade a sinner to flee to Christ for salvation?

All the fullness of the Godhead is in Christ the Son. We read in Col. 2:9-10, "For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power."

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:30-31, “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, ***He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.***”

John tells us in John 1:14. “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.”

A Christian author writes, “Surely I cannot say too much of Jesus Christ. Had I the tongues of men and angels, I could never fully set forth Christ...Oh, the loveliness, beauty, and glory of his countenance! Can I speak, or you hear too much of such a Christ?”

To Christ be the glory in our salvation because He is the king of glory.

2. To Christ be the glory because it is Christ’s desire always to glorify His Father in heaven.

We read in verse 2 “Thou hast given him his heart’s desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips. Selah.”

What was our Savior's heart's desire? — *“Lo, I come to do thy will, O God!” “Father, glorify thy name.” — “Thy will be done.”*

What was the request of his lips? Was it not the salvation of his people? The heart desire of Christ and the prayer of his lips, which cannot be and shall not be withheld from him, was the glory of his Father and the eternal welfare and salvation of his people.

Nothing is so dear to the heart of the Son of God as our...

- Redemption By His Blood.
- Regeneration By His Spirit.
- Comfort In Trouble.
- Preservation In Trial.
- Holiness Before His Father.
- Happiness Forever In His Presence!

“Selah!” These are things before which we should pause in thoughtful adoration. Stop here. Linger awhile. Meditate on these blessed and glorious truths.

Eternity will be too short for us to comprehend them fully!

Therefore, as the reward of Christ's obedience in his life and desire to glorify His Father we read in Psalm 21 verse 4 "He asked life of thee, *and* thou gavest *it* him, *even* length of days for ever and ever."

Verse 4 refers to our Lord's resurrection, exaltation, and dominion, which he earned, asked for, and received from his Father.

Similar language is used in Psalm 16:8-11, and refers to Christ, "I have set the LORD always before me: because *he is* at my right hand, I shall not be moved. (9) Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. (10) For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. (11) Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fullness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore."

In addition to receiving resurrected life from the Father, Christ was also given the heathen for his inheritance.

We read in Psalms 2:8 "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession."

In John 17:1-2 Christ offers up his great High Priestly prayer, “These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: (2) As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.”

God has a plan in all he does. One part of his plan was that the atonement of Christ should not be in vain. Therefore, He promised His Son that he should see of the travail of his soul and should be satisfied (Isa 53:11); The Savior had the assurance that the Father had given him a portion of the human family, and would apply this great work to them.

To Christ be the glory in our salvation because his desire was always to glorify His Father.

In closing, Christ deserves all the glory in our salvation because He is the King of Glory and his desire is always to glorify His Father. May the Lord help us to glorify Christ in our salvation. Let us pray!