

LIVING TO THE GLORY OF GOD

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."
I Corinthians 10:31

This text shows that it was Paul's constant habit to solve problems as to conduct by the largest principles. He did not keep his theology and ethics in separate watertight compartments, having no communication with each other. The greatest truths were used to regulate the smallest duties.

In the multitude and complexity of human activities -- eating, drinking, playing, working, struggling -- nature compels all to have a chief aim. Most people have self in view in their life's aim -- pleasure, ease, luxury, money, honor, position, power, etc. But, "The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever." This is the thought of our text.

This injunction is abused by those who pay no attention to it at all, and by those who, by giving it the most literal interpretation, worry themselves over every little detail of conduct.

What is meant by the glory of God? It is bringing into prominence His attributes and the working out of His purposes. It is the gratitude which all owe, and the obedience to which all are summoned. A king is made glorious by the obedience of his subjects. The parent is honored by the child when the child studiously fulfills the wishes of the parent. The teacher is honored, not by what the pupil says, but by what he does. And we honor, or glorify, God by fulfilling His commands. Ask yourself, What is the will of God? Ascertain what His will is, and then aim to fulfill it. People are perpetually squabbling about what will be best, easiest, and most advisable and most profitable to do, but seldom ask what it is just or right to do.

I. Reasons For Living To The Glory Of God.

1. It is the law of the universe.

For this the flower blooms, the bird warbles, and the river murmurs, etc.

2. It is right and just.

It is a "reasonable service" to our Maker.

3. It is a perfect ideal of life.

It recognizes the highest spiritual realities. It affords an enlarged viewpoint.

4. It is consistent with a full life.

Subordinate ends are not excluded. God's glory is the highest end. God Himself has made it the end of creation, providence, and redemption. Christ made it His chief end. All real saints have done the same. It brings the whole life into perfect harmony, inward and outward.

5. It is commanded in the Scriptures.

Our text admonishes us to recognize God in all our plans and purposes: --

- (1) His authority over us.
- (2) His ownership of us.
- (3) His gracious love for us.

6. It is God's will for us.

- (1) In the choice of a profession.
- (2) In determining where we are to labor.
- (3) In determining on the use of our time.
- (4) In deciding on the thoughts, feelings, and the purposes which we shall cherish.
- (5) In determining our outward conduct.

7. It always pays to do so.

- (1) It is a hard life.
- (2) It is a holy life.
- (3) It is a happy life.
- (4) It is a helpful life.
- (5) It is a hopeful life.

II. Recipe For Living To The Glory Of God.

1. By seeking to know Him better.
2. By constantly acknowledging Him.

We thus declare how worthy He is of our admiration and regard.

3. By loving Him.

Thus we acknowledge His superiority to every earthly object.

4. By serving Him.

Time has but two proper uses: --

- (1) To make our peace with God.
- (2) To serve Him.

We should serve God with: --

- a. Our thoughts -- high, holy, and helpful.
- b. Our words -- truthful, pure, temperate, reverent, and benevolent.
- c. Our actions -- encouraging and challenging. God's glory should be the end of our doings.

III. Results of Living To The Glory Of God.

1. It delivers one from self-seeking.

Doing things to the glory of self is debasing.

2. It enables us to overcome sin.
3. It brings a wonderful peace and joy.
4. It is conducive to the well-being of society.

When people seek to glorify God, it is helpful to sympathy and cooperation.

5. It gives dignity to our living.

It lifts us from the commonplace and monotonous by making all things great. To do everything for God's glory is life's deepest inspiration and highest power. When talking to John Addington Symonds, Jenny Lind said, "I sing to God." Thus she expressed the secret of her soul. We should do all of the work of life in the same spirit -- "I sing for God"; "I write for God"; "I build for God"; "I buy and sell for God"; "I plough for God." This spirit will transform all drudgery and common toil.

6. It makes us do our best.

We are God's fellow-laborers. He wants us to be faithful. He does not demand brilliance, success, or notoriety, but a careful and faithful performance of the common duties of life.

7. It prepares us for the full enjoyment of God's presence, and gives us blessed assurance, in foretaste, of the joys that await us.

To you who are just beginning life, say to yourself, "What is really the best thing I can do with it? I can go in for money, and perhaps make it; but I shall have to leave it behind, and I must die a pauper however much I make. I can go in for pleasure and get it for awhile perhaps, but that can't last forever; or I might give myself right up to God, and live with all my heart to serve and please Him. That will last longest and be best for now and ever." Give yourself whole-heartedly to the Lord and "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."