

“Lower Thirds” Material

12/20/20

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Luke 2:1-14

“Glory to God *in the highest*, and *on earth* peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Psalm 8:1 God’s glory is *above the heavens*.

God is rightly consumed with a passion for his own glory—anything less would be high treason.

Psalm 8:1 God’s name is majestic *in all the earth*.

Both **Psalm 8** and **Luke 2** are about Christmas.

Psalm 8:4-6 *What is man that you are mindful of him or the son of man that you care for him? You have made him a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor and given him dominion over all your creation.*

Hebrews 2:6-8 is a direct quote **Psalm 8:4-6**. It’s about Jesus!

God’s glory is not only revealed in his infinite supremacy but in his abject humility.

God is not only the greatest of all, he’s the lowest of all, and nothing reveals that quite like Christmas.

Philippians 2:7 *Not counting equality with God as something to hold on to for his own advantage, Christ Jesus made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”*

Matthew 11:29 “I am gentle and humble of heart.”

This gentle humility in God’s transcendent glory, revealed in the lowliness of Jesus Christ, finds its ultimate end in **John 12**.

v. 21 “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

vv. 23-24 “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

vv. 27-33 “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come (**Christmas**) to this hour (**the Cross**). Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

Jesus ties the humility of his birth and his death to God’s glory and declares that the whole purpose for his coming is his crucifixion

Hebrews 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things (**Christmas**), that through death (**the Cross**) he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.

Philippians 2:7 Being equal with God Christ emptied himself to become a man. **2:8** Christ humbled himself to death on the cross. The whole purpose for the coming of Christ is the cross of Christ.

By way of applying what we’ve learned about God’s glory revealed in Christ in **Luke 2**, **Psalm 8**, **Hebrews 2**, **Philippians 2** and **John 12**, there were three groups identified in **John 12**, who were listening to Jesus that day:

- 1) *believers*
- 2) *unbelievers*
- 3) *closet believers*.

A WORD TO BELIEVERS

Out of the Reformation came 5 “alone” statements or, in Latin, 5 “*Solae*,” that capture the entirety of salvation.

- *Sola Scriptura* - by scripture alone
- *Sola Fide* - by faith alone
- *Sola Gratia* - by grace alone
- *Solus Christus* - through Christ alone
- *Soli Deo Gloria* - glory to God alone

One of the ways God reveals his glory, not only in this world but to the principalities and powers in the spirit realm, is by giving us glory to enable us to glorify him.

John 17:18, 22-24 Father, as you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world... The glory you gave to me, I have given to them that they may be one, even as we are one. I in them and you in me, that the world may know that you sent me and that you loved them as you have loved me.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:4 Through God’s precious promises, we may become partakers of the divine nature.

Philippians 2:5 Have this same attitude of mind in you that was found in Christ Jesus.

Ten Ways We Glorify God as Followers of Christ

1. Sincere worship - **Psalm 63:3; Hebrews 13:15** (cp. **1 Corinthians 10:31**)
2. Supernatural Unity - **John 17:22-24** (cp. **John 13:35; Romans 12:1-10; Ephesians 4:1-3**)
3. Answered Prayer - **John 14:13**
4. Spiritual fruit - **John 15:8** (cp. **Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 1:13**)
5. Good works - **1 Peter 2:12; Matthew 5:16** (cp. **Colossians 1:10; Hebrews 13:16**)

6. Selfless Service - **1 Peter 4:10-11**

7. Sexual purity - **1 Corinthians 6:18-20**

8. Generous giving - **2 Corinthians 9:13**

9. Courageous Joy - **1 Peter 4:13-16**

10. Uncommon faith - **John 21:19; Philipians 1:20-21**

Romans 8:17-18; Colossians 1:24; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Christmas is our hope of glory! Because God became one of us in order to secure our salvation, we gain a shared identity with Christ, which qualifies us to participate in a shared mission with Christ, which, in turn, prepares us for a shared glory with Christ, all for the greater glory of God!

A WORD TO UNBELIEVERS

John 12:37 Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him.

No sin disqualifies you from being fully forgiven, granted peace with God and given the gift of eternal life—save one: your unbelief.

A WORD TO CLOSET BELIEVERS

John 12:42-43 Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

If you really believe in Jesus, you will confess him with your mouth (Romans 10:9-10).

A WORD TO ALL

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

v. 23 – In the new creation there is *no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light.*