

A PASSION FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

EPHESIANS 1: 3-14

Introduction:

A passion for the glory of God is best demonstrated in a passion for the salvation of sinners. More of the glory of God is seen in the salvation of a lost sinner than any other work of God. There is more glory seen there than in the creation of the universe. There is more glory seen there than in even the redemption of Israel from Egyptian bondage. There is more glory seen there than in the preservation of the nation of Israel until the fulfillment of the promise in the coming of the Messiah through Israel.

This idea was born in my heart last Thursday as I was doing my morning prayer walk. I was praying for churches across the country side that there might bright be restored to them a passion for the glory of God as seen in the salvation of sinners. I sense that we have lost the wonder of what God does when He saves a sinner, whether it is a young child, a teenager, or a lost adult. We have slipped into a way of doing church that is content to meet regularly without any evidence of the glory of God being manifest in the salvation of a sinner. How long has it been such your church was lifted up the wonder of a lost person being drawn to Christ in your worship?

As I was praying about this truth that was my prayer for the morning, I began to ask the Father if there is a text in the Bible that sets this truth forth: that is, the glory of God being displayed in the salvation of a sinner. Almost immediately my heart was drawn to this doxology that opens the heavenly Ephesian letter. The whole hymn is an expression for glory to God for the gracious way that He saves sinners.

Even a casual reading of the doxology confronts you with the Christian understanding of the nature of God--that He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And that the whole of the Godhead has a role to play in the salvation of sinners.

The burden of my heart is that the churches of this association recover a passion for the glory of God as it is displayed in the salvation of a lost sinner. I want our hearts to ache once again to see sinners saved so God's glory will be manifest on the earth. Keep your heart and follow me as we highlight the glory of God as seen in this doxology.

I. THE GLORY OF GOD IS SEEN IN THE CONFIRMATION OF THE SAVING PURPOSE OF THE FATHER.

1. The Father chose.
2. The Father predestinated.
3. The Father planned.

So every time a sinner is saved, we are allowed to behold an eternal work of God. It is not that the sinner has made a decision, but a choice made by the Father in eternity past has been confirmed. The church should be moved to bow before the Father with a sense of awe of the wonder of God's saving word. What a gracious person He is.

II. THE GLORY OF GOD IS SEEN IN THE APPLICATION OF THE ATONING WORK OF THE SON.

1. The blood of the Son is the means of redemption.
2. The forgiveness of our trespasses is the essence of redemption.
3. The grace of God is the source of our redemption.

Every time we see a guilty sinner become a new creation in Christ, we should bow before Him in wonder. We have just viewed a demonstration of His grace and glory. O to see such a demonstration of this grace in our churches more often!

III. THE GLORY OF GOD IS SEEN IN THE EXPERIENCE OF THE REGENERATING WORK OF THE SPIRIT.

1. The Spirit opens the heart to the saving Gospel of Christ.

2. The Spirit seals the new believer.

3. The Spirit grants to the new believer a foretaste of heaven while they are still on earth.

All of this a manifestation of the grace and the glory of our God. How God is glorified through the salvation of lost and condemned sinners. It is a work that He alone can do.

We are left with a song of praise on our lips and sense of wonder in our hearts. The great God of salvation has just manifested the wonder of who He is.

Conclusion:

Let me bring us back to where we began. I am asking God to restore a passion to His churches to see God glorified in their midst through the salvation of guilty, Hell-deserving, sinners.

Will you ask God to restore such a passion to your heart, and to the members of your church? Without this passion, we will make little difference in the world in which we live.

I so pray for myself and for you.