

SHOW US YOUR GLORY

Part 5: Glorious Gospel, Glorious Church

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I. THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL

A. The gospel that Paul and the other apostles preached was a “gospel of glory”

1. **2 Thess. 2:14:** *He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
2. **1 Tim. 1:11:** *...the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which He entrusted to me.*

B. Satan doesn’t blind people from religion or philosophy—he doesn’t want people to see the **gospel** of the glory of Christ!

2 Cor. 4:3-6: ³*And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴The god of this age has **blinded** the minds of unbelievers, so that **they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ**, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made His light shine in our hearts to give us the **light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.***

1. The gospel is simple: Christ died, buried & risen!
2. **1 Cor. 15:1-4:** ¹*Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the **gospel I preached to you**, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²**By this gospel you are saved**, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³For what I received I passed on to you as **of first importance: that Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, ⁴**that He was buried, that He was raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures.*
3. God wants us to know & share in His glory— in the face of Jesus—that is GOOD NEWS!

II. MISSED THE MARK OF GOD’S GLORY

- A. As mentioned in *Part 1 (Introduction)* of this study, in the Book of Romans, Paul based his entire exposition of the good news of redemption on one fact—the essence of man’s problem is that he has missed or fallen short of the mark—and that mark is the glory of God. God’s glory is the bull’s-eye!
- B. **Rom. 3:23-24:** ²³*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,* ²⁴*and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*
1. “Sinned” is the Greek *hamartano* = “to miss the mark (and so not share in the prize); to err, sin, trespass”
 2. “Fall short of” is the Greek *hustereo* = “to be inferior, fall short, be deficient, come behind, be destitute, lack, suffer need, (be in) want, be the worse”
- C. Thus, the grand purpose of God revealed through the gospel is not just a pardon for sin or escape from judgment—it is to restore man from his fallen, destitute state back to the image and glory of God that he lost in the Garden of Eden
1. **Rom. 8:28-30:** ²⁸*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.* ²⁹*For those God foreknew He also predestined to be **conformed to the likeness of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.* ³⁰*And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; **those He justified, He also glorified.***
 2. **2 Cor. 3:17-18:** ¹⁷*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.* ¹⁸¹¹*And we, who with unveiled faces **all reflect the Lord’s glory**, are being transformed into His likeness with **ever-increasing glory**, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*
 3. **2 Cor. 4:4-6:** ⁴*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the **gospel of the glory of Christ**, who is the image of God.* ⁵*For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.* ⁶*For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made His light shine in our hearts **to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.***

4. If we want to see the glory of God, look at Jesus! He demonstrated the love of God on the Cross, was declared to be the Son of God by the resurrection from the dead, and is ruling, reigning, triumphant and soon coming King!
- D. Jesus' final prayer on earth for all believers was that they would see and receive His glory:
1. **John 17:20-24:** ²⁰*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message,* ²¹*that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. **22I have given them the glory that You gave Me, that they may be one as We are one:*** ²³*I in them and You in Me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me. **24“Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am, and TO SEE MY GLORY, the glory You have given Me because You loved Me before the creation of the world.***
 2. Stephen, the first martyr in the church, saw that glory (**Acts 7:55-56**): ⁵⁵*But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and **saw the glory of God,** and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, **“I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”***
- E. Isaiah prophesied about a glory coming upon the people of God (many believe this has a dual fulfillment for the Church in the last days and for the Kingdom of Israel at the start of the Millennium):
- Isa. 60:1-3:** ¹*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and **the glory of the LORD rises upon you.*** ²*See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and **His glory appears over you.*** ³*Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

III. THE GLORIOUS CHURCH

A. Jesus' stated mission—to build a glorious church

1. **Mat. 16:18:** *...On this rock **I will build My church,** and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

2. **Eph. 5:25-27 (NKJV):** ²⁵*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,* ²⁶*that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,* ²⁷*that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

- a) Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary was not just to save sinners from hell—it was to form a glorious Bride for Himself!
- b) “Glorious” is the Gk. *endoxos* (from *doxa*) = “in glory, splendid, noble, glorious, gorgeous, honorable;” it is translated “in glorious splendor” (AMP), “radiant” (NIV), and “in all her glory” (NAS)

B. On the Day of Pentecost, with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Church was born—believers were filled with God's “glorious grace” and “the Spirit of Glory”

1. **Acts 2:1-4:** ¹*When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.* ²*Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.* ³***They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.*** ⁴***All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.***
2. **1 Pet. 4:13-14:** ¹³*But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed.* ¹⁴*If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*
3. **Eph. 1:6, 12, 14:** ⁶*To the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves...* ¹²*in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory...* ¹⁴*[the Holy Spirit] who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory.*

C. Glorious riches have been given to the Church

1. **Eph. 3:16:** *I pray that out of **His glorious riches** [“riches of His glory” – KJV; “rich treasury of His glory” – AMP] He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being.*
2. **Rom. 9:22-24:** ²²*What if God, choosing to show His wrath and make His power known, bore with great patience the objects of His wrath—prepared for destruction? ²³What if He did this to **make the riches of His glory known to the objects of His mercy, whom He prepared in advance for glory**—²⁴even us, whom He also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?*
3. **Phil. 4:19:** *And my God will meet all your needs according to **His glorious riches** in Christ Jesus.*
4. **Col. 1:10-11:** ¹⁰*And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to **His glorious might** so that you may have great endurance and patience...*
5. **Col. 1:27:** *To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the **glorious riches** of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.***
6. The church is unique—it is the place where God has chosen to manifest/display His glory now
 - a) **Eph. 3:20-21:** ²⁰*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be **glory in the church** by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*
 - b) **1 Cor. 2:1-5:** ¹*When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ²For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. ⁴My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a **demonstration of the***

Spirit's power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

- c) **1 Cor. 14:23-25:** ²³So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? ²⁴But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, ²⁵and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, **“God is really among you!”**

- D. John was translated to heaven and transported in time to see the finished “product”— the Church in all of her eternal glory:

Rev. 19:1, 7: ¹After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God...” ⁷Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For **the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.**

Rev. 21:1-27: ¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, **the new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.** ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” ⁹One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, **I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.**” ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and **showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹**It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.** ¹²It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. ¹⁸The wall was

made of jasper, and the city of **pure gold, as pure as glass.**

¹⁹The foundations of the city walls were **decorated with every kind of precious stone.** The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, ²⁰the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. ²¹The twelve gates were **twelve pearls**, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass. ²²I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³**The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.** ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

IV. THE GLORIOUS MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT

- A. The ministry of the Old Covenant came with great glory, but the ministry of the New Covenant is surpassingly more glorious; in the following passage, Paul uses the words “glory” or “glorious 11 times:

2 Cor. 3:3-18: ³You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. ⁴Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. ⁵Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. ⁶He has made us competent as **ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.** ⁷Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, **came with glory**, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its **glory, fading though it was,** ⁸**will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?** ⁹If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, **how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!** ¹⁰For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the **surpassing glory.**

¹¹And if what was fading away came with glory, **how much greater is the glory** of that which lasts! ¹²Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. ¹⁴But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being **transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.**

B. The Holy Spirit brings glory to Jesus

1. **John 16:13-15:** ¹³But when He, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴**He will bring glory to Me** by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. ¹⁵All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the **Spirit will take from what is Mine and make it known to you.**

2. God's glory is manifested through various gifts of the Holy Spirit

1 Cor. 12:1-11: ¹Now about **spiritual gifts**, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. ²You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. ⁷Now to each one the **manifestation of the Spirit** is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same

Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines.

- a) “Manifestation” is the Gk. *phanerosis* = “exhibition, expression; to render apparent appear, manifestly declare, make manifest, show”
- b) **1 Cor. 2:4-5:** *⁴My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a **demonstration of the Spirit's power,** ⁵so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.*
- c) **1 Cor. 14:23-25:** *²³So if the whole church comes together and... ²⁴... an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while **everybody is prophesying,** he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, ²⁵and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “**God is really among you!**”*

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Any so-called “gospel message” that fails to restore people to the glory of God has missed the mark. Sin caused mankind to fall short of the glory of God, so restoring us to that glory is at the very heart of redemption.
- B. Here are a few questions for further thought:
 1. Is the modern Church “hitting the mark” now, or have we replaced the glory of God with other things—entertainment, celebrities, etc.?
 2. Is the Church becoming more visibly radiant and glorious, or is she looking more and more like the world? Are we actively pursuing the “riches of His glory,” or are we more interested in running after the gold and mammon of this world?
 3. Is our ministry more glorious than Moses’? Does it produce righteousness and life, or condemnation and

death? Are there visible demonstrations/manifestations of God's glorious riches of grace, wisdom, and power?

- C. Let us keep looking intently into the face of Jesus Christ, trusting God to transform us into His likeness with "ever-increasing glory" which comes from the Holy Spirit.