

TO THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE

INTRODUCTION

The Spirit of God is doing a deep work in our church to realign our 'wheels' so that our purpose and ambition is to the glory of God alone.

1. Living for His Glory

1 Corinthians 10:31

Revelation 1:6

Romans 10:31

1 Peter 4:11

Ephesians 3:21

Revelation 7:12

Romans 11:36

a) **Glory – the noun**

See the encounter of Moses with God's glory in Exodus 33.

Two primary themes to the word Kabod: light (shikēnah glory), weight and value (gold).

God himself is His Glory.

b) To glorify – the verb

This is our human response to His character and nature. We glorify God when we:

- Worship Him above all other things

“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only...’” (Matt 4:9-10)

- Seek His will and not our own.

“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. (John 4:34)

- Give Him honour rather than our own.

Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. (John 7:18)

- Seek His pleasure and not our own.

By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me. (John 5:30)

When we glorify God, He pours out his glory upon us in increased measure.

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. (John 17:1)

2. The Life of Daniel

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility.....He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. (Dan 1:3-5)

Massive pressure is exerted on Daniel to serve the king and the demonic God's that ruled the culture of the Babylonians. The pressure is exerted through:

- a) Indoctrination
- b) Pleasure
- c) Fear of death

....Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. (Daniel 1:6-7)

The scheme here is to give them new names thereby robbing them of their identity and causing them to come into agreement with the demonic spirits behind the God's they worship.

*But Daniel **resolved** not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.* (Daniel 1:8)

Daniel's honour of God is expressed through his determination to not defile himself and thereby not defile Yahweh.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matt 6:33)

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. (Eph 5:8-11)

It is extraordinary how Daniel sees the temptation very quickly and is not deceived and compromised.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. (Romans 1:21-24)

CONCLUSION

Finally Daniel lives as a man of faith. In the middle of the battle over his destiny, he expects God to prove Himself faithful and good!

See Daniel 1:12-70