

Psalm 19:1

Church Words: Glory (Part 2)

Earth sits in a Goldilocks Zone. Most are familiar with the story of Goldilocks finding baby bear's porridge and bed "just right." So is our place in the universe. For example, gravity is so strictly constrained that if we had a tape measure and spanned the entire known universe and varied the force of gravity by 1 inch we would not have a universe that could support itself or life. Likewise, our galaxy is the right size, the right shape, the right distance from other galaxies, and we are at the right position in the spiral arm of that galaxy. Our solar star is the right size, with the right composition, with the right mass, with the right level of heat, and the right distance for us to live. Even our earth is the right size just the right terrestrial depth of our crust of our planet to allow for the tectonic movement of plates just the right atmospheric conditions we happen to have a moon of the right size that is not so overbearing that it stops the rotation of Earth but allows the kinds of Seasons we see in our planet the kind of Tides we see in our planet all of this is. This is why atheists like Richard Dawkins are forced to admit that the Fine-Tuning argument for God is a strong one for theists. Design implies a Designer.

But that is not enough. Design demands a response. Previously, we explored how glory addresses the **Essence** of God. Now we are prepared to explore the **Expression** of that glory. One of the beautiful aspects of God's majesty is not only that it is intrinsic, but it is also extrinsic. That is to say, God *is* glorious (intrinsic) and God *shares* his glory (extrinsic).

God expresses his glory, first of all, in *Creation*. Have you ever wondered why our ever-expanding cosmos is so big? It isn't because of extra-terrestrials. It isn't because we might need another earth to escape too. God created to both demonstrate and to reflect his glory. This is evident in Psalm 19:1 where David declares that creation itself ("the heavens") "declare the glory of God." Similarly, Isaiah claims that God created all of humanity "for my glory" (Isaiah 43:7). Creation is the tapestry of the greatest artist. The beauty of creation reflects the glory of God.

God also reveals his glory in *Salvation*. God does not save sinners because he has to, but because the salvation of sinners brings him glory. God saves in order to be glorified. Jesus illustrates this in a series of parables in Luke 15. Each parable concludes with the expression of joy in heaven over the salvation of sinners (see Luke 15:7, 10). The angels do not celebrate the sinner, but the Savior (see also Psalm 21:5; Romans 9:22-23).

A third way God reveals his glory is through the *sanctification* of believers. God doesn't merely save, he also transforms sinners. This is a means of glory. The growth of a believer reflects our glorious God (see John 15:8). Sanctification is nothing less than the redeemed sinner dedicating their lives to the glory of God. From the words we speak to the actions we take, every desire we have, every

relationship we build, and every good we pursue. The sanctified believer is one that has crucified self-glorification in order to seek the glory of their Savior.

Finally, we must explore the **Experience** of glory. If God is not only glorious in his being, but shares his glory with his creation, then our response to God's glory must be to return it. How do we do that? The first is through *Worship*. Worship is ascribing to God what he already is. It is the experience of the finite creature acknowledging and extolling glory to the God of glory. This is why the first commandment is so important. Idolatry is to glorify what is not glorious. It is the chief of sins.

We can also experience glory by our *Walk*. When our walk does not match our worship, we sin. If the focus of our worship is the resurrected Savior, then so should our lives. We should glorify God in all that we do. Paul makes this clear when he wrote, "whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31, see also 1 Peter 3:10-11). Our lives should be God-focused, not self-focused. We should seek God's glory and not our own. This is contrary to the American creed. Calvin is right when he stated, "We never truly glory in God until we have utterly discarded our own glory."

Glory is, without a doubt, one of the richest words in Scripture. We draw us to consider who God is and, as a result, who we are. The God of all majesty paints the stars of the sky and draws us to himself. Even so, he is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.