

Title: Reflecting Glory
Passage: 2 Cor 3:7-18
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Series: See God's Glory

Read 2 Cor 3:7-18

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God loves to share his glory.

That may seem like an odd thing to say, given in Isaiah 42:8 God says,

"I am the Lord. That is my name!
I will not let any other god share my glory.
I will not let statues of gods share my praise."

God certainly is clear his glory is not to be given by people to objects and false God's who are not fit for it.

We experience glory when something or someone moves us to a powerful sense of awe, respect, honour, or thankfulness.

- Glory in creation
- Glory in winning grandfinal. No glory if didn't win, but claimed you did.

When it comes to the glory we give God, it should be the only true God to whom we give ultimate glory, not created things.

But God is not petty or possessive. God loves to share his glory. God loves to give to his creation glory so we experience it with a sense of awe.

[stars]

Because it is God's creation, God has given it glory.
Psalm 19

The heavens tell about the glory of God. The skies show that his hands created them.

God loves to share his glory.

In John 17 we see how God has always loved to share his glory.

Jesus loved to bring glory to God the Father [slide]

"4 I have brought you glory on earth. I have finished the work you gave me to do. 5 So now, Father, give glory to me in heaven where your throne is. Give me the glory I had with you before the world began.

We see God the Father and Son sharing glory in
Philippians 2:9-11

So God lifted him up to the highest place.
God gave him the name that is above every name.
When the name of Jesus is spoken, everyone will kneel down to worship him.
Everyone in heaven and on earth and under the earth will kneel down to worship him.
Everyone's mouth will say that Jesus Christ is Lord. And God the Father will receive the glory.

In all of creation, God shared his glory above all with humanity. [slide]

We were created in God's image, and given by God the glory of ruling over creation.

Psalm 8 reflects on the glory God gave humanity [slide] "What are human beings that you think about them? What is a son of man that you take care of him? 5 You have made them a little lower than the angels.

You placed on them a crown of glory and honor. 6 You made human beings rule over everything your hands created. You put everything under their control. 7 They rule over all flocks and herds and over the wild animals.

8 They rule over the birds in the sky and over the fish in the ocean. They rule over everything that swims in the oceans."

God gave to people such capacities that creation would experience humanity as glorious.

We were created with glory. The extraordinary glory of being children of God.

CS Lewis, The weight of glory [slide]

There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilization—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendours. This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously—no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption."

Our tragedy as humanity is we exchange this glory for lies and emptiness.

We see our story in Gen 3 as Adam/Eve exchange their glory given by God to pursue their own glory. What was true for Adam is true for us all. The Apostle Paul concludes

Romans 3:23 "There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

It is like CS Lewis wrote in "the weight of glory"

[slide] "We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

- We were created with glory.
- We fall short of glory

**But this is not the end of our story.
We are being transformed by glory.**

2 Cor 3:7-18

- Moses in God's presence and reflects God's glory.
- Used a veil to cover, as the people couldn't bear to look on it.
- People still have something like this veil over their hearts so they can't see the glory of God in Jesus.
- But faith in Christ and turning to the Lord takes that veil away.
- And as we look on the glory of God in the person of Jesus, we are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

We were made for glory, and by his grace God is not done with us yet. [slide]

He shares with us his glory.

Through Jesus God invites us in see it and reflect it.

As we turn in faith to Jesus, as we reflect on his words and works. As we give Jesus glory in our life and church. As by the work of the Holy Spirit in our life we become more like Jesus. His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, rubs off on us. It changes. We are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory.

This is the work of God and the hope of creation
Romans 8

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Who knew our simple acts of worship, reading the bible, meeting with God in prayer, meeting together to encourage one another in following Jesus are so important. So key for the glory of all creation. [slide]

Queen Elizabeth 2 held the glory of royalty. But with all its riches and power, this was not her greatest glory.

At her coronation Queen Elizabeth 2 these words were said,

"Your gracious Majesty, I present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords...."

What was this? Magna Carta, works of

Shakespeare? No It was the bible.

In this book and the person of Jesus Queen Elizabeth 2 found her own glory. The glory of reflecting Jesus to the world. We honour the Queen commending her on the nobility of her character. I am certain she would be the first to honour the inspiration and source of it all. The King of her soul, Jesus of Nazareth.

We may not have the Queens power or influence, but we can share in the glory she knew in Jesus.

God loves shares his glory with us through his glorious Son.

His Spirit is at work in us changing to be more like Jesus

we are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

But here is the key...when we see his Glory.

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Look to Jesus. Meet with Jesus. Sit at his feet and learn his words and ways. Worship him. Adore him. Experience God's glory because you have such an awe, respect, honour, and thankfulness for Jesus.

When you do see God's glory, then you will know this.

Not that you are fallen, despised, sinner, lowly But through Jesus Christ you share in the freedom and glory of the children of God.

God gives when he shares with us something that others experience with praise, awe, respect, honour or thankfulness.

Response/Prayer/Care cards