

Title: Extending Glory

Passage: Is 11:1-9, 2 Cor 4:4-15

Date: 9 Oct 2022

Speaker: Jason Hoet

Series: See God's Glory

Read 2 Cor 4:4-15

We are the final 2 weeks of our series 'See God's glory'.

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I have been working with this idea that We experience glory when something or someone moves us to a powerful sense of praise, awe, respect, honour, or thankfulness.

Each week the hope has been that our church will give glory to God as we see what is glorious about God. (we are moved to praise...)

In the Son, the cross, in our transformation, in the church, in our speech and service.

This has been a wonderful way to focus us on our Thanksgiving Sunday. As His Church it is vital we see God's glory.

Question I have – how can seeing God's glory extend beyond the church?

God is too great and good for his glory to be seen by only the church!

[slide]

We have heard the Apostle Paul wrote in Rom 1 the world is full of people who "neither glorified [God] as God nor gave thanks to him" (Rom 1:21)

How might these people see God's glory, give God glory?

This is the vision the prophets Isaiah and Habakkuk had for when God rescues the world.

The glory of God that Israel knew, was to be no longer confined to Israel.

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Theologian Tom Wright said, [slide]

"this whole creation, this wonderful world, is like a beautiful silver goblet, destined to be filled, flooded to overflowing, with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea, flooding in to every harbour and inlet at the fullest of tides"

Isaiah prophesied the knowledge of God's glory would transform the world from a place of threat to peace, a place of oppression to justice.

In Isaiah 66 God says he will gather the people of all nations and languages, and they will come and see my glory. (v18)

He will do this by sending his people

[slide]

V19 – 20 to the nations and "to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations. And they will bring all your people, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the Lord"

What Isaiah and Habakkuk prophesied is being fulfilled through Jesus.

From our reading we heard

- While the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers,
- God makes light shine out of darkness, and his light is shining so people can see the knowledge of the glory of God displayed in the face of Christ

He is doing this through people like Paul who preach the good news of Jesus Christ as Lord It is hard, difficult work (hard pressed, persecuted...)

He knows he is limited

But it is God's work.

And

God is making his light shine in hearts

And

"grace that is reaching more and more

people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."

God is given glory as his grace extends to more and more people.
[what we see in our church]

Paul is on the front line of Isaiah's prophecy and God's work. He is one of God's sent ones going

"to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory."

And as he proclaims the glory of God in the face of Jesus, he is seeing the earth filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Paul only saw the start of the tide building.

<https://joshuaproject.net/> [slide]

provides an up-to-date global overview of people groups of the world with the fewest followers of Christ.

5 positive trends / 5 challenges (speak to highlights) [5 slides]

God is given glory as his grace extends to more and more people.

Globally through Jesus God is filling the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Vital we send and we go.

Vital we support work where we see God's life.

- le internationals/Iranian

God is given glory as his grace extends to more and more people.

But what about those who are far from God, but close to us?

How can

"grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."

What we can do to play our part [last slide]

- Increase opportunities - Do good, give God Glory
- Take Risks to help others follow. (invite/share)
- Persist - Don't be discouraged

God is given glory as his grace extends to more and more people.

Response/Prayer/Care cards