

The title of this message is “Glory to God: The Remedy for Pride.” We could also call it, “The Glory Question.”

Back in 2017 I preached this message, but I’d like to revisit the material since it is a helpful way to conclude our series, *Killing Pride, Cultivating Humility*.

When I am proud, I am pursuing my own glory. When I am humble, I am pursuing God’s glory. Pride is glory to me. Humility is glory to God.

These are the two options in every situation, every conversation with my spouse, every business deal, every ball game, every meal I prepare, every dish I take to a church potluck, every sermon I preach, every dollar I spend, every act of Christian service. It will be either glory to me, or glory to God.

This is the question. Indeed, the key to maximum joy is linked to the question, “Who gets the glory?”

There’s no subject that has the power to bring joy into our lives, no matter what the circumstances, like *the glory of God*. Listen to Romans 5:1-2, “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we **rejoice** in the hope of **the glory of God**.”

What enables the child of God to rejoice in life, no matter how great the trials may be? The certain hope of *the glory of God*. The glory of God speaks here of the coming day when God receives the glory He deserves. But it also speaks of the glory He will receive as He shares His glory with those He has redeemed, as Paul shares at the end of this section in Romans.

Romans 8:17 “...we share in his sufferings that we also may share in his **glory**.”

Romans 8:18 “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the **glory** that will be revealed in us.”

Romans 8:30 “And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also **glorified**.”

The prophet Isaiah had much to say about God’s glory and its connection to our joy.

Isaiah 60:1-2 “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.”

Isaiah 60:19 “The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your **God will be your glory**.”

Isaiah 61:10 “I **delight** greatly in the LORD; my soul **rejoices** in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

Jonathan Edwards’ quotes about the Glory of God

“The enjoyment of God is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied.” --source?

¹ For a previous look at this topic, see the sermon preached at WBC on 1/29/2017.

** Note: This is an unedited manuscript of a message preached at Wheelersburg Baptist Church. It is provided to prompt your continued reflection on the practical truths of the Word of God.

“God is the highest good of the reasonable creature. The enjoyment of him is our proper; and is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Better than fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of any, or all earthly friends. These are but shadows; but the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams; but God is the sun. These are but streams; but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean.”

— Jonathan Edwards, *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, Vol. 17: Sermons and Discourses, 1730-1733²

“God’s purpose for my life was that I have a passion for God’s glory and that I have a passion for my joy in that glory, and that these two are one passion.”

Last week I shared with you an acrostic that has helped me understand and rejoice in the glory of God. I’m encouraging you to memorize the *Glory Road* and let it become a framework for your life.

G- God created all things for His glory.

L- Life is meant to be lived, and joy comes, when we live for His glory.

O- Our problem is sin, which is living for something short of His glory.

R- Redemption is what God has provided through Christ to rescue a people for His glorious purposes.

Y- You can now live for the glory of God, by grace alone, through faith alone in the gospel.

Let’s take a quick walk again down the glory road, and then consider some implications of it.

G – God created all things for His glory.

In the Bible *glory* comes from a Hebrew word (*kabod*) that means “heavy” or “weighty.” The Greek word (*doxa*, from which we get doxology) means “honor” and “renown.” That’s what God is, what He deserves, and what He desires.

Romans 11:36 “For from Him, through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him be the **glory** forever. Amen.”

L – Life is meant to be lived, and joy comes, when we live for His glory.

1 Corinthians 10:31 “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for **the glory of God.**”

Romans 5:2 “And we **rejoice** in the hope of the **glory of God.**”

So living for God’s glory is not only *why* we are here, but it’s the key to our fullest experience of joy.

So what’s the reason for our lack of joy?

² https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/75887.Jonathan_Edwards

O – Our problem is sin, which is living for something short of His glory.

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of **the glory of God.**”

The first man, Adam, did this. All of his descendants have inherited his sin nature, and therefore, they all do the same. We enter this world living for something other than, falling short of, the glory of God.

R – Redemption is what God has provided through Christ to rescue a people for His glorious purposes.

Redemption means “to buy back.” That’s what God did. He sent His own Son into the world in order to buy back an undeserving people. This people would respond to His unmerited efforts by living for His glory and fame.

The fullest expression of God’s glory took place on the cross. At the cross God put on display the glory of His grace, and the appropriate result is praise and glory to the Triune Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Three times in the opening of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians we hear the words, “**to the praise of His glory.**”

In verse 6, praise to God the Father for His role in designing the redemption that took place at the cross; in verse 12, praise to God the Son for His work in accomplishing our redemption at the cross; and in verse 14, praise to God the Holy Spirit’s role in applying the benefits of the cross to us.

Ephesians 1:6-7 (KJV) “To the praise of **the glory of his grace**, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. ⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.”

Y – You can now live for the glory of God, by grace alone, through faith alone in the gospel.

The gospel is the good news of what the Triune God has done to save undeserving sinners for His glorious purposes. Ephesians 2:8-9 makes it clear that believing the gospel is the key to living for God’s glory and experiencing His joy.

Not generic faith, but faith in the person of Jesus Christ. And not faith plus our works, but faith alone in the work Jesus accomplished. Jesus lived a perfect life. Jesus died in the place of sinners. Jesus conquered sin, death, and the devil. And God promises to save any sinner who believes in Jesus.

And He doesn’t just promise it. He guarantees He will save a people, and save them for this purpose, for *His glory*.

Ephesians 3:20-21 “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ **to him be glory** in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

So Christ enables us to experience the joy of living as we were created to live, for the glory of God. Praise is what we do with our lips to glorify God. Holy living is what we do with our lives to glorify God.

So here it is again, the glory road/question. I encourage you to memorize it.

G- God created all things for His glory.

L- Life is meant to be lived, and joy comes, when we live for His glory.
O- Our problem is sin, which is living for something short of His glory.
R- Redemption is what God has provided through Christ to rescue a people for His glorious purposes.
Y- You can now live for the glory of God, by grace alone, through faith alone in the gospel.

Some observations and implications regarding the glory road

We talked about the first two last week, but let's touch on them again, then move to new ground.

1. Life is about glory, specifically, who gets the glory.

As sinners, we want it. We've inherited a nature so that we want to be made much of in life. We want life to be about us. But God deserves the glory.

We can even take good things, even the feeling of affection for God and His glory, and make it be about us.

Listen to Jonathan Edwards, in his book, *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*.

“If the heart be chiefly and directly fixed on God, and the soul engaged to glorify him, some degree of religious affection will be the effect and attendant of it. But to seek after affection directly and chiefly; to have the heart principally set upon that; is to place it in the room of God and his glory. If it be sought, that others may take notice of it, and admire us for our spirituality and forwardness in religion, it is then damnable pride; if for the sake of feeling the pleasure of being affected, it is then idolatry and self-gratification.”

Think about it. I preach a sermon. It's exegetically sound, with good application. But has it been for God's glory or my own?

You teach your class at school. Good content. Well behaved children. But has it been for God's glory or your own? You visit a shut-in. The same question.

How can I tell?

Read Tim Keller, *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness*. “The essence of gospel-humility is not thinking more of myself...or less of myself... It is thinking of myself less... The blessed freedom of self-forgetfulness.”

2. The persons of the Godhead delight in bringing glory to one another.

John 17:1-7 “After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: ‘Father, the hour has come. **Glorify** your Son, that your Son may **glorify** you...⁴ I have brought you **glory** on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.⁵ And now, Father, **glorify** me in your presence with the **glory** I had with you before the world began.’”

John 17:24 “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.”

3. God's purpose for missions is the praise of the glory of God by the nations.

This theme runs through the Bible.

1 Chronicles 16:24 “Declare his **glory** among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.” (also Psalm 96:3)

Psalm 67:3-5 “**May the peoples praise you, God**; may all the peoples praise you. ⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth. ⁵ **May the peoples praise you, God**; may all the peoples praise you.”

Isaiah 66:18-19 “For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my **glory**, ¹⁹ and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my **glory**. And **they shall declare my glory among the nations**. “

Acts 15:14 “Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them **a people for his name**.”

Romans 15:8-9 “For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹ and, moreover, that the **Gentiles might glorify God** for his mercy. As it is written: ‘Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name.’”

So missions exist so all the nations will glorify God for His mercy. Missionaries exist so all the nations will glorify God for His mercy. Local churches have missions budgets so all the nations will glorify God for His mercy.

Should we as a church support benevolent ministries? Yes, but particularly those who meet practical needs in ways that result in people (and people groups) glorifying God for His mercy.

It’s all about God.

4. We who are in Christ are now ministers of the glory of the new covenant.

Ministry is all about glory, again, *God’s* glory. Amazingly, the God of glory privileges us to participate with Him in spreading His glory and people’s joy.

Do you ever get discouraged when you’re teaching your Sunday School class, or trying to show Christ to your kids at school, or doing your ministry, whatever it is?

Paul did. And he shares what kept him going in 2 Corinthians. The knowledge that we are *ministers of the glory of the new covenant*. Notice how many times he mentions “glory” or “glorious” in this section.

2 Corinthians 3:6-18 “He 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. ⁷ Now 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**, transitory though it was, ⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more **glorious**? ⁹ If the ministry that brought condemnation was **glorious**, how much more **glorious** is the ministry that brings righteousness!

¹⁰ For what was **glorious** has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing

glory. ¹¹ And if what was transitory came with **glory**, how much greater is the **glory** of that which lasts! ¹² Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³ We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴ But 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. ¹⁵ Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶ But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's **glory**, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing **glory**, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays **the glory of Christ**, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we preach is not 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 **God's glory** displayed in the face of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 4:15-17 “All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to **the glory of God**. ¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an **eternal glory** that far outweighs them all.”

When ministry gets tough, this keeps us going. The glory of God, and the privilege we have to help others glorify and enjoy Him, as ministers of the glory of the new covenant.

That brings us to some practical implications for *how* we do ministry and life.

5. Biblical evangelism is taking people down the glory road.

When we do evangelism, we need to explain the glory road to people, and invite them to join us on the journey. This is the key to God-centered evangelism and living, as opposed to man-centered substitutes.

E.g.—“Accept Christ so your life will be fulfilled.”

There's certainly truth in that statement, but it takes the conversation down the wrong road. What if the person says, “My life is already fulfilled”?

When we do evangelism, here is what people need to hear and we need to proclaim.

G- God created all things for His glory.

L- Life is meant to be lived, and joy comes, when we live for His glory.

O- Our problem is sin, which is living for something short of His glory.

R- Redemption is what God has provided through Christ to rescue a people for His glorious purposes.

Y- You can now live for the glory of God, by grace alone, through faith alone in the gospel.

Oh we may not use the “glory” acrostic, but we need this God-centered approach as we share the good news of Jesus with those around us.

6. Biblical Christianity is walking down the glory road daily.

Jerry Bridges has said that as Christians we should preach the gospel to ourselves every day. This is another way of saying the same thing. We need to see everything in life in light of the glory road, and then live in light of it. This is the essence of Christian living, and it should be true in every area of our lives.

Titus 2:11-14 “For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and **godly lives** in this present age,¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of **the glory of our great God and Savior**, Jesus Christ,¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to **do what is good.**”

We need to do *everything* in light of the glory road (2 Timothy 4:18, Hebrews 13:21, Jude 25, 2 Peter 3:18), including...

We need to eat and drink in light of the glory road (1 Corinthians 10:31).

We need to do our jobs in light of the glory road (Colossians 3:17, 23).

We need to do marriage in light of the glory road.

We need to do parenting in light of the glory road.

We need to grandparent in light of the glory road.

We need to view retirement in light of the glory road.

We need to do our ministry in light of the glory road.

We need to take people down the glory road...

-as we do church life together

-as we’re teaching our Sunday School classes

-as we counsel people who are struggling with life’s difficulties

-as we’re helping parents deal with the challenges of child-rearing

Discuss: In practical terms, how do we do the above? Give examples

7. God’s purpose is that His children share in Christ’s suffering now and then in His glory.

God indeed is working all things for His glory, including the suffering of His people.

Romans 8:17 “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his **glory.**”

Romans 8:18-21 “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 hope²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and **glory** of the children of God.”

Romans 8:28-30 “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 image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also **glorified.**”

1 Peter 1:6-11 “In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, **glory** and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and **glorious** joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the **glories** that would follow.”

8. God’s people will give Him glory when Christ returns.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-12 “God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷ and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from **the glory of his might** ¹⁰ on the day **he comes to be glorified** in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. ¹¹ With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. ¹² We pray this so that **the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you**, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

A Man Who Lived *For the Glory*

For the Glory. That’s the title Duncan Hamilton gave to his 2016 biography, *Eric Liddell’s Journey from Olympic Champion to Modern Martyr*. Listen to the book’s promo.³

Many people will remember Eric Liddell as the Olympic gold medalist from the Academy Award winning film *Chariots of Fire*. Famously, Liddell would not run on Sunday because of his strict observance of the Christian sabbath, and so he did not compete in his signature event, the 100 meters, at the 1924 Paris Olympics. He was the greatest sprinter in the world at the time, and his choice not to run was ridiculed by the British Olympic committee, his fellow athletes, and most of the world press. Yet Liddell triumphed in a new event, winning the 400 meters in

³ <http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/316862/for-the-glory-by-duncan-hamilton/9781594206207/>

Paris.

Liddell ran—and lived—for the glory of his God. After winning gold, he dedicated himself to missionary work. He travelled to China to work in a local school and as a missionary. He married and had children there. By the time he could see war on the horizon, Liddell put Florence, his pregnant wife, and children on a boat to Canada, while he stayed behind, his conscience compelling him to stay among the Chinese. He and thousands of other westerners were eventually interned at a Japanese work camp.

Once imprisoned, Liddell did what he was born to do, practice his faith and his sport. He became the moral center of an unbearable world. He was the hardest worker in the camp, he counseled many of the other prisoners, he gave up his own meager portion of meals many days, and he organized games for the children there. He even raced again. For his ailing, malnourished body, it was all too much. Liddell died of a brain tumor just before the end of the war. His passing was mourned around the world, and his story still inspires.