

Lesson 17: THE FATHER GLORIFIED

Herein is My Father Glorified, that Ye Bear Much Fruit - John 15:8

I. Introduction What glorifies God

- a. The verse under study says “**herein** is my Father glorified”. This immediately raises some questions that need to be answered if the believer is to carry out that which glorifies the Father.
- b. First we must have a proper notion of **who God is** before we can even begin to understand what it takes to glorify Him.
- c. Secondly, we must have some basic understanding of the **meaning** of the word “glorify” so that we may recognize when it is happening.
- d. Thirdly, we must identify the requisite **source** that enables the believer to do anything which qualifies as glorifying God.
- e. Finally, we must have a solid grasp of what **manifestations** would qualify as the “bearing of much fruit” in order to bring about the glorifying of the Father.

II. Who is God?

- a. As the Sovereign Lord of creation, Scripture gives us a picture of God that sets Him **apart** from all other beings that He has created.
- b. This difference between God and His creation is sometimes referred to as His **holiness**.
- c. Since the word holiness does not clearly convey its essential meaning without amplification, a simple way to grasp it is to think of God in terms of “**otherliness**” or, unlike anything else in His created universe.
- d. He is **unique**, a one of a kind. Further, the God revealed to us in the Bible is a unity of three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three persons are co-equal and co-eternal.
- e. The attributes of God are eternally held by the Triune God and are equal for each person of the Godhead. All perfections are ascribed to God to **infinity**. He is self-existent and self-sustaining.
- f. God is utterly **perfect** in all His Being, perfect in all His ways and unchanging.
- g. He yields to no other power, authority or glory, and is **not** subject to any other absolute greater than Himself.
- h. He can never be surprised, defeated or uncertain. He can never be added to or **diminished** in any way in any of his qualities or attributes. He is complete and has need of nothing. So how can such a God be glorified?

III. The Meaning of “Glorify”

- a. The root word of glorify is “glory”. As it is used in reference to God it speaks of the beauty, power, or honor; the quality of God's character that emphasizes His weightiness and authority. The word is used in **three** senses in the Bible.
- b. First, it refers to God's moral beauty and perfection of **character**. This divine quality is unique to God Himself and is shared with nothing outside of the Godhead. Isa 42:8 *I am the LORD : that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, KJV*
- c. During the earthly ministry of Jesus, though His divine glory was cloaked by His humanity, He still **personified** the infinite perfections of God in all His conduct. Phil 2:6-7 *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: KJV*
- d. Christ was the **manifestation** of the glory of God with us (Immanuel) and this leads one to an incontrovertible argument for the Deity of Jesus. Heb 1:3 *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, KJV*
- e. Secondly, the word glory is used in reference to God's moral beauty and perfection as a **visible presence**. While God's glory is not a substance, at times God does reveal His perfection to man in a visible way. Matt 17:2 *And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. KJV*
- f. In addition to the transfiguration, such a display of the **presence** of God is often seen as fire or dazzling light, but sometimes as an act of power. Some examples from the Old Testament are:
 1. The **pillar** of cloud and fire (Ex 13:21)
 2. The Lord's **deliverance** of the Israelites at the Red Sea (Ex 14)
 3. Especially His glory in the **tabernacle** (Lev 9:23-24) and Temple (1 Kings 8:11).
- g. Thirdly, the word glory refers to **praise**. At times God's glory may mean the honor and audible praise which His creatures give to Him Rev 5:12-13 *Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. KJV*

Lesson 17: THE FATHER GLORIFIED

Herein is My Father Glorified, that Ye Bear Much Fruit - John 15:8

- h. Hence, the verb phrase **to glorify** God means to call attention to His perfection and greatness through thought, word and especially by deeds which reflect Him. Acts 4:21-22 *for all men glorified God for that which was done. For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed. KJV*

IV. The Source

- a. Due to the perfections of God, when men attempt to glorify Him in thoughts or deeds, anything that is thought or done that does not accurately reflect Him **dishonors** Him. Rom 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; KJV*
- b. It can be inferred from this that only perfection **reflected** back to Him is adequate to express His true glory. John 17:4 *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. KJV*
- c. In order to be considered as something that glorifies God, only those deeds or that fruit which **emanates** from Him is adequate; a perfect reflection of Himself, is required. "without me you can do nothing"
- d. The question then must be: How can imperfect creatures produce a perfect reflection of God Himself? The answer is **GRACE** that comes from God.
- e. **Only** that which is of God can reflect God. Any and every act of obedience or Christ-likeness is produced in the believer by the grace that flows from God to the person. 1 Cor 15:10 *but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. KJV*
- f. While the will of the actor is involved, the operation of the will must be subsequent to the infusion of grace which **enables it**. If it were otherwise, the reflection of God would be the product of human effort. Eph 2:9 *Not of works, lest any man should boast. KJV*
- g. Since God is perfect in every way and humans are imperfect, flawed and tarnished by a sin nature in every thought and action, **whatever** comes from that man could only be called imperfect and can not glorify God. Rom 7:18 *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. KJV*
- h. Therefore abiding in Christ, obedience to the will of the Father, being filled with the Holy Spirit, etc. all are possible only after grace is **received** to enable them in the believer.

OBJECT LESSON HERE

- i. No amount of personal effort or well intentioned sacrifice on the part of the believer can do anything that would in any measure glorify God, even minutely. God is not glorified by anything short of **Himself**.
- j. In terms of thought and behavior only that which is of God can reflect God. God can only be properly glorified by Himself **in us**. Every other manifestation is less than Perfection and does not honor Him.

V. The Manifestation

- a. Men judge the quality of the gardener by the fruit of his garden. Men **judge** God by the fruit that the branches of the Vine of His planting bears.
- b. While there are many ways that fruitfulness can manifest itself it is always **attributable** to the Godhead.
1. The **works** of the Father Eph 2:10 *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV*
 2. **Living** Christ. Col 1:27 *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, KJV*
 3. The **fruit** of the Spirit. Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: KJV*
- c. As a man works and serves in a **power** which comes from God alone, God gets all the glory for the manifestation of that fruit.
- d. When we confess that the ability came from God alone, he that does the work, and they who see it, **equally** glorify God. It was God who did it. 1 Peter 4:10 *"He that ministers, let him minister as of the ability that God giveth, that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ."*
- e. The **goal** of the believer is God glorifying Himself in me, showing forth the glory of His goodness and power in what He works in me, and through me; this is the manifestation of much fruit. 1 Peter 2:12 *they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. KJV*

VI. Application

- a. *The Father glorified.* In your devotion this week meditate on what that would look like and sound like in your attitudes in the midst of circumstances and communication and actions toward others.