

THE GLORY OF GOD

Week 2 – The Weightiness of God!

September 17, 2024

Psa. 34:1-3 - I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. ² My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear of it and be glad. ³ Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

Our thankfulness is not to be silent. Our voice should continually speak forth our thankfulness and our boast should be in the Lord. We should encourage our brothers and sisters in the Lord to magnify God with us.

The glory of God is....

- God's revealed presence.
- The beauty that emanates from all Who He is: all His attributes.
- God's displayed excellence.

WHY – in this day – at this time, with so much dissension, instability, CHAOS, deception, and hate... WHY is the study of the glory of God significant? Shouldn't we be concentrating on practical issues, i.e. how to survive?

J.I. Packer, an Evangelical theologian, in his classic work, "Knowing God," wrote, "...a study of the nature and character of God...is the most practical project anyone can engage in." A practical project entails the actual doing of something rather than being concerned with theory and ideas. Putting what you know into practice. Acting upon what you know!

The word of God is not theory and ideas. It is HIS communication to us that HE has revealed! And we know...

Heb. 4:12 - *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart"*

And, MARVELING at Who God is...is "practical." How so? To "marvel" means to be filled with wonder and amazement. How do you live when you're filled with wonder and amazement?

Some teach that the first time we read of the glory of God in Scripture is at creation.

Gen. 1:1 - *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* Whose beginning? Does God have a beginning? NO! Gen. 1:1 is speaking of the beginning of God's creative act.

SINCE God Himself has no beginning...He is ETERNAL!

We read of the glory of God from ETERNITY PAST and into ETERNITY FUTURE – because God is ETERNAL! (Job 38:4-7 [Guzik]; Isa. 53:10; Rev. 13:8).

Psa. 90:1-2 – Moses wrote, *Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.* (Moses was watching his father-in-law's sheep [not even his own sheep] in the land of Midian for 40 years having fled from Egypt; Moses and his ppl. wandered in the wilderness for 40 years!) ² *Before the mountains were brought forth, (was Moses there at that time?) or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.* Forever always...continued existence.

What was God doing before He created the universe?

God is infinite! He is without limitations. God is omniscient...He is **all** knowing; God is omnipotent...He is **all** powerful; God is omnipresent...He is **everywhere** present; everything is in His presence. God **is** love (I John 4:8). God is the source of love!

What was God doing before He created the universe? God has always existed as ONE: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Consider...

John 1:1 - *In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Before the universe was created, the Word, God the Son, the 2nd person of the Trinity, was with God – He is God!*

John 8:56-58 – in speaking to the Jewish religious leadership, Jesus told them, ‘*Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.*’⁵⁷ *Then the Jews said to Him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?’*⁵⁸ *Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’* Not only did Jesus exist before Abraham, Jesus claims in this verse (and others) to be I AM – the ETERNAL/SELF-SUFFICIENT GOD.

John 17:5 – before His crucifixion we read of Jesus praying in the garden, *And now Father, glorify Me with Yourself with the glory which I had with You before the world was.* What was that glory? The glory of God!!!!

We also know that the Holy Spirit was present before the creation. Genesis 1:2 describes the Spirit *hovering over the face* of the dark and formless earth.

Genesis 1:3 – God SAID – God SPOKE. God the Son is the Word!

Back to Genesis 1:1 – *In the beginning God....* PERIOD!! No explanation. HE IS!!! AND, the Hebrew word for “God” – Elohim – the “im” ending is plural!

And what do you think about Gen. 1:26 - *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; ? Who is the “Us”?*

The whole undivided essence (His divine nature) of God belongs equally to each of the three persons of the Trinity

Deut. 6:4 – God is one, *Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.* “One” in Hebrew is *echad* – a composite one/a composite unity. How many times do we read about God in this verse? Three times: LORD, God, LORD. He is a composite unity. A unity that is comprised of several parts! Because God is a composite unity, before creation God felt complete joy, fulfillment, absolute satisfaction, and love as He perfectly communed with/within Himself. Our triune God, three in one, is together in fellowship with one another from eternity past through eternity future. They love each other.

John 17:24 - *Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

God created the world BECAUSE He loved and desired a relationship with man.

- Scripture teaches the glory of God.
- Scripture teaches man’s response to God’s glory as He reveals that glory to us.
- Scripture makes it clear that we are to glorify God.
- Scripture teaches how we can glorify God.

The Hebrew word for “glory” which is *kaw-bode* (ka-VODE), means “honor.” The root word for *kaw-bode*, the meaning which is the most basic meaning of the word, means WEIGHTINESS. Weightiness – ALL WHO God is – ALL God’s attributes/His inherent qualities (His essential qualities that are essential in God being God), God’s reputation (ALL that God reveals about Himself; all that God desires for us to know about Him).

Deut. 29:29 - *the secret things belong to the LORD our God, (perhaps re: details concerning how God carries out His plan) but those things which are revealed belong to us and our children forever that we may do all the words of this law.*

ALL Scripture has been revealed to us!!! What God has revealed to us He wants us to understand. How? Ask God the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding as you study the Scripture.

Isa. 11:2 – The Holy Spirit is *The Spirit of the Lord..., the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.*

Because God’s glory is weighty – the FULLNESS of ALL Who He is – His glory cannot be CONTAINED!

II Chron. 2:5-6 – King Solomon wrote, *...the temple which I build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods (gods). ⁶ But who is able to build Him a temple, since heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him?*

AND SO, the glory of God – the weightiness of God – ALL His attributes, the fullness of Who He is, and His reputation have been manifested (made evident; made known) to the world (Rom. 1:18-20) – and so man is without excuse!

God’s attributes are essential. His attributes are necessary for Him to be God which speak to His worth and divine nature/His very being.

ALL God’s attributes exist and operate simultaneously at all times – at every moment throughout eternity!

AT THE CROSS - God’s love and His justice operated simultaneously!!!
God’s righteous demands were met at the cross!! God demanded death for sin!!! And so, Jesus, because of love, died to pay the penalty for our sin!

This example might help us to better understand the outworking of all God’s attributes...
 ...Have you ever had anyone ask you...”WHY is the God of the OT so angry, hateful, and wrathful...but the God of the NT is loving, merciful, full of grace?” At the heart of that question is a foundational misunderstanding of what both the OT and the NT reveal about the nature of God – WHO God is!

Ask the person posing the question, “Do you believe in one God or more than one God?” If they respond with, “I believe in one God”...Tell that person, “The Bible teaches that God does NOT change!! Mal. 3:6 - *I am the Lord, I do not change*; THEREFORE, God is the same God in the OT as He is in the NT.

If they insist that God is wrathful in the OT and kind and merciful in the NT, ask them, “What do you do with the account in Exodus 34:4-7 which tells us that, *Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone* (to replace the first two stones that Moses had broken/had thrown on the ground in anger when the children of Israel were worshipping the golden calf [Ex. 32:19]).

⁵ Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD (WHO GOD IS). ⁶ And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, (BUT) by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.' This is Who God is always!

ALL God's attributes exist and operate simultaneously (at the same moment) at all times – at every moment throughout eternity!

He is the same God in the OT as He is in the NT! He is the same God in the NT as He is in the OT!

GOD'S ATTRIBUTES (not an exhaustive list)

Holiness – *Holy* means “set apart. God is clearly separate from His creation. Because God is holy, He must judge sin (Rom. 1:18-20 – and cross reference).

Eternality - (Ex. 3:14 – “I AM Who I AM” [eternal; sufficient unto Himself]; Psa. 102:12; Heb. 13:8...) God has existed from eternity past through eternity future.

Self-Existence – (Ex. 3:14) God does not owe His being to any other thing. God is the uncaused cause and the uncreated creator.

Goodness – (Ex. 34:6-7) He is the source of goodness; He alone is the rule and measure of what we truly know to be good. To say that God is good means that God always acts in accordance to what is right, true, and good. Goodness is part of God's nature, and He cannot contradict His nature. ...*God abounds in goodness and truth* (Ex. 34:6). The fact that God is good means that He has no evil in Him.

Grace – Grace justifies us before a holy God (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:6; Titus 3:7). Grace is God's favor toward the unworthy/the underserving.”

Immanence – God is near (Psa. 145:18; Psa. 139).

Immutability – God NEVER changes (Mal. 3:6).

Justice - (II Cor. 5:21; Rom. 3:23-26) Justice is a term used for what is right or “as it should be.” Justice flows out of God's holiness. Justice and righteousness are often used synonymously in the Bible. Righteousness is the quality of being right or just.

Love – (Rom. 8:35, 39) God is love (I John 4:8) – agape love. Agape love is willful delight in the object of love. God is the source of agape love. “God is love.” God does not merely love; He *is* love. Everything God does flows from His love. It is by Him that we experience love.

Mercy – (Titus 3:5; Heb. 4:16; I Pet. 1:3) Mercy is the withholding of a just condemnation. Mercy is not getting what we deserve!

Omnipotence – (Jer. 32:17; Heb. 1:3) God is ALL powerful. God has all power over all things at all times and in all ways.

Omnipresence – (I Kings 8:27; Psa. 139:7-10) God is everywhere present in the fullness of His being. Being in all locations present in the whole of His being, there is no place we can go and not be in His presence.

Omniscience – (Psa. 147:5) God is ALL knowing. God knows all that there is to know. There is nothing that is outside the scope of His conception, understanding, or attention.

Sovereignty – (Psa. 115:3) Sovereignty tells of God's divine control over everything that happens. There is nothing outside the control of His loving Hand. God is our absolute authority.

God is infinite; He is limitless...God has no limitations! He is infinite in ALL His attributes. No matter which of the attributes of God you consider, He possesses each to an infinite degree. God

has infinite grace – no limits to His grace. God has infinite mercy – no limits to His mercy. God has infinite holiness – no limits to His holiness....

To such an infinite God there rightly belongs an infinite, a limitless weight of glory!!! Can we even fathom that?

We do not attribute these attributes to Him, He REVEALS them to us. How are we responding?

QUESTIONS

What was a V8 moment (an “ah ha” moment) to you?

What impacted you most about the glory of God in this lesson?

Did you share what you learned about the glory of God with anyone last week?

What might you not have understood in today’s lesson?

Tell us about your journaling time this past week.

How are you responding to what God is revealing to you?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 2’s handout with the Bible references.

Continue to journal!

Pray about sharing our study with a friend, family member, acquaintance, stranger!

Read Week 3’s lesson when you receive it.

Glorify God!!!