

The Glory of God Alone



Everyone's heart is lifted by the stirring music of a band on parade on The Twelfth.

All bands are indebted to the people who composed the tunes to which they march.

One of the greatest composers of all time was J.S. Bach. It is a little known fact that at the end of each of his compositions he wrote the letters: "SDG" - "Sola Deo Gloria"- "The Glory of God Alone." Bach was saying that he had composed his latest work to glorify God.

This might seem strange to us today, but it is what the Bible says we were designed to do. Everything about us is to be to the glory of God:

I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. (Psalm 86:12)

We were to be centred on God and seek his glory alone.

WHAT IS THE GLORY OF GOD?

Glory has always been a characteristic of God. Just before His death Jesus prayed:

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."
(John 17:5)

As John Piper writes: *The glory of God is the holiness of God put on display.*

God's holiness and glory is to be seen through what He has made, and especially through people.

But when sin came into the human race, through Adam, the focus of our lives changed. Instead of being centred on God we are centred on ourselves. Instead of wanting to serve God we want to serve ourselves. Instead of wanting to glorify God we are content to glorify ourselves.

In effect we are robbing God of the glory due to him by taking all the glory to ourselves.

So, how can we glorify God?

Only if we gain a new standing in God's eyes and new nature to be able to obey him.

■ In **SCRIPTURE ALONE** God shows us that we have fallen far short of His requirements and reveals what He does to set things right between us and himself to enable us to live to His glory.

■ By **GRACE ALONE**, and without any input from ourselves, God saves us from the terrible effects of sin.

■ God calls us to repent of our sin and to rest on Jesus and His finished work through **FAITH ALONE** and, as we do, counts His righteousness as ours and declares us to be acceptable to him.

■ This is only because God accomplished our salvation in **CHRIST ALONE**, by sending Jesus to live the perfect human life on our behalf, by laying our guilt on him and punishing him in our place.

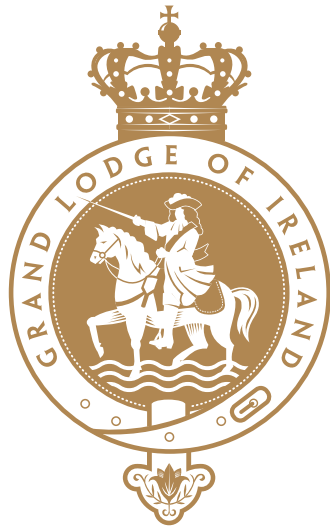
God completely removes the effects of sin in our lives so that we can put the holiness of God on display and so glorify him.

Practically, how do we do this?

- By remembering that Jesus' sacrifice and death is necessary in securing our salvation from sin. **God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.** (Galatians 6:14)
- By trusting God's promises at all times. **[Abraham] staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God** (Romans 4:20)
- By treating others as Jesus treated us: **Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God** (Romans 15:7)
- By recognising that all work and activity, which is not sinful, is done to God's glory. **Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God** (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Ultimately we will do it, perfectly, and forever as we stand before God in His heaven and join in the great song of praise: **Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever** (Revelation 5:13)

It is clear that we can only glorify God if we are the beneficiaries of the salvation which He secured for His people in Jesus.



You can
either
continue

to be centred on yourself,
deny God His glory and remain
under His wrath for ever,

or you can
accept

the salvation which God offers
you in Jesus and live to
His glory here on earth
and ever more in heaven

**For of Him, and through Him,
and to Him, are all things:
to Whom be glory
for ever. Amen.**

Romans 11:36



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