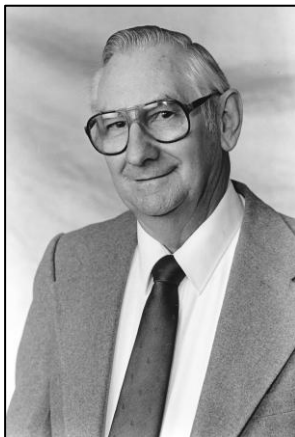




## The unabridged writings of Fred Morris, Manna Publications

### The Meaning of... **THE GLORY OF GOD**



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**MANNA FOR ALL**

**To the reader:** Have your Bible open as you study these notes. Remember that they have not been edited by the UK editorial team but are part of Fred's legacy of Bible teaching literature he wrote after his retirement to the USA in 1990. These notes also serve as the legacy of the late Jim Norman, Manna Publications UK, who checked and formatted and archived Fred's writings for him. Invite a friend to study with you. You will be blessed.



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## **GOD IS GLORIOUS**

The word 'glory' describes the very nature of God. God's glory is His Presence. God lives in the fullness of His glory. His person is all glorious and all His works are glorious.

All God is and all He does is full of majesty, power and glory. So glory is the essence of God's being and doing. We cannot separate God from His glory. He alone is glorious in His person and works.

God alone is eternal and immortal. The eternal God dwells in great moral splendour. When Paul wrote to Timothy he spoke of God "who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see" (1 Tim 6:16). That 'light' is the glory and perfection of God's person, the splendour of His absolute righteousness.

Those few people who came close to God's presence saw light, brilliant light, and they fell on their faces. And that same light blinded Paul's eyes (Acts 9:8).

Only a little of God's glory was ever seen, at special times and in special places. One day all Christians will see the glory of God – His very presence in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Cor 4:6). Like the angels, we will "behold His face forever."

## **MOSES AND THE TABERNACLE**

God called Moses to come up Mount Sinai. On the mountain God gave him the plan to build the Tabernacle or tent of meeting. Moses built the Tabernacle "after the pattern God showed him."

When Moses had finished the work, he set the Tabernacle up. In it he put all the furnishings God had ordered. "Then the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. Moses could not enter because the cloud had settled upon it..." (Ex 40:33-35).

The glory that filled the Tabernacle was God's presence. God came to the Tabernacle to bless it and to show that He accepted Moses' work. From that day on, God met with His people at the Tabernacle.

Moses and the people of Israel saw God's presence fill the Tabernacle with blinding light (Ex 40:34). Under the Old Covenant of law, no man could approach a holy God. God gave Israel the law and the priesthood. Through the priests and by means of blood sacrifice, sinful man was able to worship a holy God.



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. When did Moses see God's glory (Ex 40:34)?
2. Was a person free to come to God anywhere and any how?
3. What did God require (Lev 1:1-4)?

## **THE PEOPLE REBELLED AGAINST GOD**

God called to Moses to come up Mount Sinai again and bring with him two tablets of stone. God wanted to give Moses His laws for the people. God wrote His laws on the tablets of stone (Ex 20:1-17).

Moses was on the mountain forty days and nights. While he was on the mountain, some of the people brought their gold to Aaron, Moses' brother, and asked him to make them a calf idol. Aaron did this and some of the people danced around the golden calf and worshipped it (Ex 32:1-35).

The Lord God said to Moses, "Go down (from the mountain), because your people...have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them...I have seen these people... Now leave Me alone... so that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation" (Ex 32:7-10).

When God said this, Moses fell on his face before the Lord and prayed for the people of Israel. God answered Moses' prayer. God relented and spared the people (Ex 32:7-14).

Moses was very angry. "Aaron, why did you do it?" he shouted at his brother. "What did the people do to you, that you led them into such great sin" (Ex 32:21-22)?

Aaron hung his head. "Do not be angry, my lord," he said. Moses held the two stone tablets of law God had given him on the mountain. They held the commands of God, written by God's own finger (Ex 31:18). In his anger, Moses threw the stone tablets down at his feet and they broke into many pieces.

## **WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE?**

Some of the people in the camp worshipped the calf-idol and danced around it. Moses called out, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me."

God had chosen the sons of Levi to be priests. They came and stood beside Moses. Then God ordered these loyal men to kill those who were dancing around the calf-idol.

It was a sad day for Israel and for Moses. He told the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin" (Ex 32:30).

God had not called Moses to go back up the mountain, so he took his life into his own hands as he went up.

He pleaded with God, "O Lord, please forgive their sin - but if not, then blot me out of the Book You have written."

God answered Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot out of My Book (the Book of Life, Rev 20:15)... When the time comes for Me to punish I will punish them for their sin" (Ex 32:33-34).

God saw Moses' great faith. Moses really loved the people of Israel. He had refused God's offer to build another nation through him and was willing to give up his place in Heaven if God spared the people's lives (Heb 11:28).



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. On the mountain, what did God give Moses (Ex 32:15-1)?
2. When Moses came down into the camp, what did he find (Ex 32:7-10)?
3. What did Moses offer to God if He would spare the people (Ex 32:30)?

## **MOSES THE MAN OF GOD**

Moses was 'lifted up' above the people:

- a. To speak to and know Yahweh "face to face" (Ex 33:11).
- b. To be a watchman for the nation (Isa 62:6).
- c. To be Israel's Law-giver and judge.
- d. To see some of God's glory (Ex 33:17-23).

Because of the people's sin, God could not dwell with Israel as He wished to. Moses knew God would not dwell in the camp with these sinful people. In a desperate effort to separate himself from the sin of the people, Moses set up a tent outside the camp. Joshua, Moses' aide, stood guard at the tent to see that no unholy person came near (Ex 33:7-11).

This act of Moses declared God's holiness and God was pleased to meet Moses at the tent.

"As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud (a symbol of God's presence) would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses" (Ex 33:9).

Moses said to the Lord, "Remember that this nation is Your people!" (Ex 33:13). If God would not go on with the people, Moses felt he could not go any further.

Because of his great sin with the calf-idol, a cloud of doubt rested on Aaron, Moses' brother. Who would stand with him now that Aaron had sinned? How could he lead this multitude of people alone? What was worse, God was calling them "Moses' people!"

Then God said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name" (Ex 33:15-17).

## **SONS OF GOD**

As Moses prayed for these 'stiff-necked' people, so Christ prays for us, "that our faith fail not" (Luke 22:32).

In Christ, a loving heavenly Father saves and restores (adopts) those who repent of their sin. He takes them into His family and they become His children (Eph 1:5).

In Christ, God does for His Church all that He could not do for Israel through Moses.

## **THE OLD COVENANT**

Under the Old Covenant, Israel had to have a High Priest, an altar, a sacrifice for sin and a laver for washing before they could bring a sin offering to God (Ex 25:8; 29:43).

The blood of sacrifice covered or atoned for their sin and God forgave them (Lev 1:3-4; 16:5-28). God told Moses to cut two new stone tablets out of the rock. Early in the morning, Moses went up the mountain alone "with the tablets in his hands" (Ex 34:4).

Then the Lord (Yahweh) came down in the cloud. He proclaimed His name... "the LORD, the LORD! The compassionate and gracious God... slow to anger, abounding in love... Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished..." (Ex 34:6).

Moses bowed to the ground and worshipped the Lord God. "O Lord," he said, "If I have found favour in Your eyes, then let the Lord go with us."

## **THE ANGEL OF HIS PRESENCE**

God could not keep company with sinful people, so He promised to send the Angel of His Presence with Moses and the people. The Angel went with them to set them apart from all the heathen nations around them and to protect them as they marched toward the land of promise (Ex 33:16; Matt 1:18).

God said to Moses, "I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I the Lord will do for you. Obey what I command you..." (Ex 34:10-11). The Covenant or Law God gave to Israel was written in the Ten Commandments (Ex 20).



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Why did God tell Moses to bring a second set of stone tablets up the mountain?
2. Who went with the people as they marched to the promised land (Ex 33:16)?
3. Why did God send the Angel of His Presence with the people as they went to the promised land (Ex 33:16)?

## **THE REST OF FAITH**

Moses and the people could have had God's 'rest of faith' right then, as they trusted in the "Presence." And that Presence went right on with them into Canaan, the land of promise. The land of promise and plenty was a picture of the rest believers can have when they put their faith fully in Jesus. God was

waiting to give the people of Israel a spiritual rest in their hearts the like of which they had never known before (Heb 4:8).

## **A VEIL COVERED THEIR HEARTS**

Paul said Israeli hearts had a veil over them like the veil Moses put over his face. Paul wrote, "For to this day the same veil remains (on men's hearts)...It (the veil) has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away" (2 Cor 3:14-16).

God told Isaiah about this hardness that comes over men's hearts when they rejected His word. God told them, "Though you hear My words repeatedly, you won't understand them. Though you watch and watch as I perform My miracles, still you won't know what they mean" (Is 6:9-10 TLB). Jesus used these same words when He spoke to the Jewish rulers and Pharisees (Mark 4:11-12).

## **GOD'S GLORY ON MOSES' FACE**

Every time Moses went into God's Presence he came away with some of the light of God's presence on his face.

When that light began to fade, Moses put a veil over his face "that the sons of Israel might not look intently at the end of what was fading away" (2 Cor 3:13 NASB).

The fading glory and the veil are a picture of the old covenant which would pass away and of their hard hearts. God's presence is always glorious. Where God is, there is light. His presence brings light to the eyes and in the soul.

## **MOSES' REQUEST**

Then Moses said (to God), "Now show me Your glory."

God said to Moses, "I will cause all My goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim My name 'The Lord' in your presence... But you cannot see My face, for no one may see Me and live" (Ex 33:18-20).

God said, "I will put you in a cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand... Then I will remove My hand and you will see My back..."

Moses would not be able to bear the full sight of God's glory, so in mercy God covered him with His hand.

God is so gracious to us. He denies what is not fit to be granted - the things that will hurt us - to give us those things that will bless us and do us good.

Moses got a glimpse of God's glory, but he saw no form. Any time the form of a heavenly being was revealed to man, it was an angel.

In Heaven, God's people will see His glory in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Cor 4:6; 1 John 3:2).



## **TALK ABOUT**

1. Why did Moses put a tent outside the camp of Israel (Ex 33:7-11)?
2. Who guarded the tent?
3. What special thing did Moses ask God to do (Ex 33:18)?
4. How did God show His glory to Moses (Ex 33:21-22)?
5. Did Moses see God? Why not?

## **CHRIST'S GLORY IN THE TEMPLE**

Before Christ came to earth, men had visions of His glory. Seven hundred years before John, the prophet Isaiah saw Christ's glory. Jesus said so (John 12:41).

Isaiah saw Christ's glory as he stood at the Temple door. In a vision, God's prophet saw the angel hosts. They proclaimed the essence of God's glory when they sang "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory" (Isa 6:3).

All those who catch a glimpse of the glory of a holy God cry out with the prophet: "Woe is me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among people of unclean lips....." (Isa 6:5).

I don't believe the prophet was given to cursing. And I don't think he spoke evil of his neighbours. What he preached to the people came from his heart, but he knew his heart was not right before God.

God sent an angel with a live coal off the altar to touch the prophet's lips. He told Isaiah, "Your guilt is taken away and your sins atoned for" (or covered).



## **TALK ABOUT**

1. What did Isaiah see at the Temple (Isa 6:1)?
2. How do we know the prophet saw Christ's glory (John 12:41)?

## **GOD'S GLORY IN CREATION**

God's glory shines forth from His creation. We can see His loving care in the vast array of created things, in the multitude of living creatures and the vastness of its starry hosts.

One morning I sat in the bright sun. I looked up into a clear blue sky and felt a gentle breeze move through the air and rustle the trees above me. How beautiful, I thought. At that moment I saw the glory of God in His creation and I felt His presence very near.

I thought of the great universe. It is like God, without limit. There is no end to its galaxies, its space and its mystery.

My friend showed me an egg sack laid by the shellfish called Welk. The egg sack was dry and he opened one pod out of the many. Out spilled hundreds of tiny Welk shells. They were the size of a pin's head, but every one was perfectly formed. In them, too, I saw the glory of God's handiwork.

## **GOD'S GLORY IN HIS CHURCH**

God's Church is not a building, it is people. The Father sent the Son to earth to get a family, a bride, who would adorn Heaven and make Heaven even more glorious.

Here on earth, the Christian Church reflects Christ's light as a diamond reflects the natural light. That light shines in the faces of God's people as they spend time in His presence (Ex 34:29).

The Church will be gathered and presented to the Father, splendid in purity. In Heaven, the saints will shine like the sun (Matt 13:43). Their moral beauty will shine, for they will be "without spot or blemish" (Eph 5:27).

Heaven will never be the same, spirit-stars will shine brighter than any earthly star. Now they reflect His glory; then they will be filled with His glory. And they shall ever worship Him: "Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever" (Rev 5:13 KJV).

## **GOD'S GLORY DEPARTS**

Because the people of Israel did not obey God, He let their enemies raid their land. Raiders took crops and cattle and anything of value from the Tabernacle.

Finally the people abandoned the Tabernacle and did not worship at it any more. This brought great sorrow to King David's heart. He vowed to build a temple to the Lord God.

God sent His prophet Nathan to tell King David, "You are not to build a house for My name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood" (1 Chron 28:3).

Solomon, David's son, built a beautiful Temple. It took the place of the Tabernacle. God filled the Temple with His glory (2 Chron 5:13-14).

For a time, the people worshipped God at the Temple, but they soon turned to worship idols.

God used the cruel Assyrians to punish Israel, the northern kingdom. Later Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came and destroyed the city of Jerusalem and Solomon's Temple (2 Kings 25).

Ezekiel the prophet was carried away to Babylon with the people of Judah. In a vision, Ezekiel saw the glory of the Lord - God's very presence - leave the Temple (Ezek 10:4, 18). God showed Ezekiel that He could no longer dwell with His people. He had allowed their enemies to destroy the Temple, the symbol of His presence.

A remnant of God's people went back to Jerusalem from Babylon. They rebuilt the Temple and God filled the new Temple with His presence.



## **TALK ABOUT**

1. Who built a temple to the Lord God?
2. Why did God's glory leave the Temple?
3. Who destroyed the Temple?
4. Who rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem after it was destroyed by Israel's enemies?

## **THE GLORY OF CHRIST'S LIFE**

When Jesus came into the world, men saw the glory of His perfect life. John wrote, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth" (1:15 KJV).

John saw Christ's glory with his own eyes. He said, "the Life appeared... we have seen with our eyes... and our hands have touched... the Word of Life (Jesus Christ)" (1 John 1:1-2).

## **THE GLORY OF GOD IN HIS FOLLOWERS**

On the night before He was killed Jesus was with His disciples. He prayed, "Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began" (John 17:5). He prayed to God for the disciples, "I have given them the glory that you gave Me, that they may be one as We are one" (John 17:22).

Jesus wanted His disciples to see the fullness of the Father's presence in and with Him and to know that the Father would be with them in the same way. They had seen the Son; they had 'seen' the Father in the Son! The Son's glory came from His Father's presence with Him.

Before Jesus went back to Heaven, He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem. "Stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high," He told them (Luke 24:48).

All true Christians have God's presence dwelling in them by His Spirit. This is the greatest blessing that comes us as Christians. We have His presence and glory in us by the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 2:2-4).

Paul said, "As we walk with our Lord, we are changed from one degree of glory to another by the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives" (2 Cor 3:18).

As the Father and Son were One (John 17:21), so Jesus and His followers are one. As the Father's presence indwelt the Son, so the Father and the Son indwell Christ's followers. This is only possible because the Father sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in His people (Acts 2:2-4).



## **TALK ABOUT**

1. Does God give the same glory to Christians?
2. How does God come to live in His people (Luke 24:49)?

## **THE GLORY OF GOD TRANSFORMS THE SINNER**

Seven hundred years before Jesus Christ was born, Isaiah the prophet wrote of the transforming power of God in the life of the believer. He showed us how God's glory transforms whatever it touches. Isaiah wrote, "The wilderness will rejoice and blossom" (Isa 35:1-2).

This was a picture of Christ's work in a man's heart. What happens in the renewing of nature, happens in every heart that believes and opens fully to the grace of God. This transforming power comes to us because "the glory of the Lord rises upon you...and His glory appears over you" (Isa 60:1-2).

## **CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF FUTURE GLORY**

God sent the Holy Spirit to live in His people. They received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). The Spirit of God came to fill us with His own life to give us power and glory. The Holy Spirit took Christ's place. Without God's Spirit, we can't please Him or serve Him in any way. So the Bible speaks of "Christ in us."

The Holy Spirit has no revelation of His own to give to us. He points us to the glory of the Father and the son, Jesus Christ. And He brings that glory into our lives.

Christians have the glory of God dwelling within them, by His Spirit. And His presence makes their lives glorious.

In heaven, the angels worship Him with the words: "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever" (Rev 5:13 KJV).



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Who works in us the good pleasure of God? (Phil 1:13).
2. The Holy Spirit changes us into the 'image' of Christ. What does this mean?
3. Who does the Holy Spirit point us to (John 16:13-14)?

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT POINTS MEN TO CHRIST**

The Holy Spirit points us to the glory of Christ's life and ministry. He points us to:

- a. Christ as our Saviour from sin.
- b. Christ as our Mediator - the One who stands between us sinners and a holy God.
- c. Christ our Intercessor. He presents our prayers with His.
- d. Christ our ever-living King. He comes and rules in our hearts.
- e. Christ our power to overcome Satan and temptation, even as He did (John 16:33).

## **CHRIST WILL GATHER HIS OWN**

God will perfect that which concerns us (Phil 1:6). "According to the eternal purpose which He (the Father) purposed in Christ Jesus" (Eph 3:11).

The Father sent the Son to get a bride who would adorn Heaven and give praise to His great name.

Christ finished that commission when He died on the cross, but the gathering of His people is still taking place. By the preaching of the gospel, He is calling out a people who are His Church, the Bride of Christ.

Jesus Christ will come again and gather His people. The Bible uses one Greek word for Christ's Second Coming; that word is 'parousia.' Jesus used the word 'parousia' when He spoke of His coming again (Matt 24:27).

Christ's Parousia is the hope of every Christian. "For the Lord Himself will come down from Heaven with a mighty shout and the soul-stirring cry of the archangel and the great trumpet-call of God" (1 Thess 4:16 TLB).

What will that shout be? Some think it will be "Enough! Enough of war and suffering! Enough of sin and death!"

When Jesus shouts "Enough!" all trouble and suffering will be over. And there will be no time left to make ourselves ready for Heaven.

## **THE GLORY OF CHRIST'S COMING**

Jesus Christ is "the Lord of glory" who shines through the written word (James 2:1). He is 'in the glory' of His Father's Presence now and He said He will come again in the clouds with great glory (Matt 24:30).

He is King Jesus. Once He came into the city riding on a donkey. Next time He will come in the glory of the Godhead.



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. How will Jesus Christ come to gather His people (Matt 24:27)?
2. Who will see and hear Him coming (1 Thess 4:16-18)?

## **THE GLORY OF HIS NAME**

"The Lord your God" was the glorious and awesome name that Israel knew (Deut 28:58). It was so revered in Israel that the people did not speak it, so the way they said God's name was lost.

When the Levites called on the people of Israel to praise "the Lord your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting" they began with the words: "Blessed be Your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise" (Neh 9:5).

The disciples knew the glory and power of Christ's name. Jesus sent them out with the authority of His glorious name. "He gave them power and

authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases and He sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick" (Luke 9:1-2).

The seventy two who went out returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name" (Luke 10:17).



## TALK ABOUT

1. Who changes us into the 'image' of Christ?
2. How does the Holy Spirit do this?

## JOHN SAW CHRIST'S GLORY

John the apostle saw Christ's glory. He was a prisoner on the Isle of Patmos because he preached Christ and the resurrection.

Patmos is a rocky little island, ten miles long and five miles wide. Tourists today can climb up a big cliff that overlooks the Aegean Sea. They are taken to a grotto, where they are told John wrote his "Letters to the churches," which is part of the Book of Revelation.

On the Isle of Patmos, in the midst of John's suffering, Christ appeared to John and revealed His glory. It was so awesome, John fell at His feet as though dead (Rev 1:17).

- **HIS VOICE:** John turned and heard a voice. Ezekiel "saw the glory of the Lord, and His VOICE was as the sound of many waters" (Ezek 45:2).

Natural man is too busy and too stubborn to pay much attention to God's voice. Man searches for another voice. The sad part is that he finds it, but it is the voice of the serpent. A lying voice, a deceiving voice, a voice of false promises and false hopes.

- **"HIS HEAD AND HAIR** were white like wool, as white as snow." (Rev 1:14). White, dazzling white, a picture of purity and righteousness.
- **"HIS EYES** were like blazing fire..." They were brilliant, piercing. And on His head were many crowns." (Rev 19:12, 13) His eyes see all that pleases and displeases Him. "Nothing in all creation is hid from His eyes. (Heb 4:13)
- **"HIS FEET** were like bronze glowing in a furnace." (Rev 1:15) Moses, Aaron and Abihu saw the glory of God; something like a pavement made of sapphire was 'under His feet'. (Ex 24:9, 10) Isaiah wrote, "the earth is His footstool." (Is 66:1) One day his enemies will be trampled under those feet. (Ps 110:1)
- **"IN HIS RIGHT HAND** He held seven stars..." The seven stars were the seven churches, held in His Hand! (Rev 1:16). For us this means provision, protection, safety in the hollow of His hand. He holds the whole world in His hand.

- **"OUT OF HIS MOUTH** came a sharp double-edged sword." It has a double edge. This sword is used in judgment. David had good reason to be afraid of the sword of the Angel of the Lord!
- **"HIS FACE WAS LIKE THE SUN** shining in all its brilliance." God told Moses, "You cannot see My face, for no one may see Me and live." (Ex 33:20) So God hid Moses in the cleft of the rock. Moses saw the refracted glory of the Lord as He passed by.

Several thousand had fallen by this sword. Then God spoke to the Angel, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." and he put his sword back in the sheath. David saw that the Lord had answered him on the threshing floor of Araunah, and he offered sacrifices there. (1 Chron 21:27-30)

The writer to the Hebrews reminds us that the "Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any double-edge sword." (Heb 4:12) The Apostle Paul tells us to 'use' that sword, which is the Word of God; take it out of its sheath and use it against our great enemy, Satan. (Eph 6)



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. How did the apostle John describe the Risen Christ he saw in his vision?
2. What did John do (Rev 1:17)?
3. What does the writer say about the Word of God (Heb 4:12).

## **JOHN SAW THE SAINTS IN HEAVEN**

In Heaven, the saints will shine out like the sun (Matt 13:43). Their moral beauty will shine, for they will be perfected, "without spot or blemish... blameless" (Eph 5:27).

In his vision, John saw them gathered standing before the throne of the Lamb. They had been gathered from every nation, tribe, people and language and they cried out with one voice, "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb" (Rev 7:9-10).

Every one of these sealed ones had a ransom paid for him when Christ died on the cross (Ex 30:12-15; 1 Tim 2:6). They wore white robes, a symbol of their reward, and they waved palm branches. This was a sign of Christ's victory (6:11; 7:9; John 12:13).

John saw these 'tribulation saints' already in Heaven. They were saved in this gospel age. They had "their robes made white in the blood of the Lamb" (1:5; 21:1-4; 1 Peter 1:18-19). They were saved and blessed with the same blessings of God's grace that we enjoy. They came from "every nation, tribe, people and language." And they were "standing" before the throne (7:9; Dan 10:8). They sang of Christ's victory.

## **GOD IS JEALOUS OF HIS GLORY**

When the people of Israel turned away from the living God and began to worship idols, God warned them, "I am the Lord; that is My name! I will not give My glory to another or My praise to idols" (Is 42:8). Again the Lord said to the prophet Isaiah, "For My own sake, for My own sake, I do this. How can I let Myself be defamed? I will not yield My glory to another" (Is 48:11).

Sadly, the Christian Church is caught up in many things that do not bring praise or glory to the Lord's name. Believers try to mix their old ways – the heathen customs of their people – with their new life in Christ. They fear being shut out of society and losing their friends who are not believers. They fear what relatives will say to them! They fear losing the support of their partners in marriage or business. So they share in heathen weddings and heathen funerals and do as their heathen customs tell them.

Paul said, the old ways cannot be mixed with our worship of God. He turned to the prophet Isaiah for God's word. Paul warned the Christians in the wicked city of Corinth: "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers..." – in marriage or in business. He said that there will be no agreement. "For what agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God" (2 Cor 6:16). Our bodies are God's temple (1 Cor 3:16).

God hates the 'hidden things' that keep men bound in darkness. We are told to renounce the hidden things and expose the evil.

It is Satan's lie that oaths we have made in the past cannot be broken. We can break the oaths we have made to Satan. We can do this in the name of Jesus Christ.

Many people take God's promises for themselves, but still live in sin. The Lord does not walk with them. He cannot. (1 Cor 6:16).

We flee from sin. We turn away from it. We cut it off from our lives (Matt 5:29-30). We "put off the old ways" (Eph 4:22-27). We ask God to make us clean by the blood of Jesus (1 John 1:9). And we separate ourselves from the sin of the world around us.

Everything we do, we do to honour Christ and show forth God's glory. All we do must bring praise to His name! "For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life" (1 Thes 4:7).

All God's promises are ours. He gave them to men of old, but now He gives them to us in Christ (Acts 2:39).

"Since we have these promises (of God) let us turn away from everything wrong, whether in body or spirit, and purify ourselves..." We do this by the washing of the word as we read the Bible and by submitting ourselves to the Holy Spirit's control.



## **TALK ABOUT**

1. How can we make our lives pure (2 Tim 2:21)?
  2. How do we withhold our love from others?
  3. How can we break the power of oaths we have made to Satan?
  4. How do we “purify ourselves”?
  5. How can we flee evil desires...” (2 Tim 2:22)?
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