

In All That You Do, Do All To The Glory of God

by Fred Chay

"The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

These are the insightful words of the Westminster Catechism. This instruction should be the guiding theme for all of us who live for the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, what does it really mean to glorify God? What does glory mean? It is a word we often use, but frequently fail in understanding its meaning. In classical Greek, the word for glory (the word from which we get doxology) means "reputation" or "opinion". The New Testament adds the concepts of "radiance", "majesty" and "honor". Giving glory to God is the process whereby we maintain and proclaim a reputation and opinion of God that is of the highest order. It is to proclaim and ascribe the radiance, splendor and honor due unto the Lord.

The creation of God has this as its highest end. In Psalm 19 the psalmist declares, "The heavens declare the glory of God." The creation of man in Psalm 8 is seen to proclaim the glory of God. "yet Thou has made him a little lower than God and hast crowned him with glory and majesty." The Lord Jesus manifests the glory of God and the Gospel is the glory of Christ (2 Cor.4: 4). What is God's glory? It is the composite of all of His attributes: grace, truth, goodness and mercy. All that He is reveals His glory. It is His reputation, His radiance, and His essence.

As Christians, I hope we will make it our goal to live a life that brings honor and glory to God. The Lord Jesus instructed us in Matthew 5:16 to "let your light shine bright before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." The apostle Peter said similar words in I Peter 2:12, "Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles so that in the things in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation."

This year we want to encourage, educate and exhort ourselves and others to make His glory our primary aim. For after all, as the apostle Paul has said, "For you have been bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your bodies."