

"Soli Deo Gloria"

Isaiah 42:8-9

Overview



"No guts, no glory!" Isn't that what they say? The not-so-subtle meaning behind the phrase seems to be that you must take a risk, show bravery, go out on a limb if you want to do something that people will admire and celebrate you for.

Some people live for glory – to be in the limelight and the toast of the town. They will do anything for one more compliment, one more like, one more instance of other people telling them how great they are.

As Christians we are no strangers to glory. You might say we live for it too – but not to bring glory to ourselves. For, as the Westminster Shorter Catechism says, "the chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."

Getting Started *All Things Great and Glorious*



1. Who do you think is the most famous athlete of all-time?
 2. If you could be known (i.e. famous) for one thing, what would it be?
 3. What best demonstrates or reminds you of the glory of God? (Hint: What inspires you to worship Him?)
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The Text



⁸ "I am the LORD; that is my name!
I will not yield my glory to another
or my praise to idols.
⁹ See, the former things have taken place,
and new things I declare;
before they spring into being
I announce them to you."

Isaiah 42:8-9 (NIV)

³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³² Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—³³ even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

1 Cor. 10:31-33 (NIV)

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1 Cor. 6:18-20 (NIV)



NOTES: _____

Understanding



1. What or who, in Isaiah 42:8, is competing for God's glory? What is God's opinion of these competitors?
2. How are the competing idols described by Isaiah (see Isaiah 40:18-20; 41:5-7, 21-24, 28-29)? How is God contrasted with these powerless idols (check 41:25-27; 42:9)?
3. What is God able to do for people that these idols cannot (review Isaiah 40:10-11, 21-23, 28-31; 41:8-10, 17-20)?
4. Who is God addressing in Isaiah 42:9? Who is "the servant" of 42:1 (see Isaiah 41:8-10)? How does God intend to use the servant (42:6-7) and how will the servant bring glory to God?
5. What guiding principle for decision-making do we find in 1 Cor. 10:31? Read vs. 23-30 and describe how the principle would impact the situation described? How does God's glory shine through (what effects does it have (see also vs. 10:31-11:1))?
6. What does Paul call us to do in 1 Cor. 6:20? Why should we do this? How exactly do we do this according to this passage (check out vs. 12-20)?

Applying



1. Some would say that God's insistence on getting the glory is weak, self-serving and unbecoming for a holy God. Agree or disagree? (Hint: Why do you think God is so concerned about someone else receiving His glory?)
2. How do you see yourself bringing glory to God? What are the different ways a person can do that (you can review Isaiah 43:1-21 for some ideas)? How might James 4:8 help us in this?

3. How much glory would you say God receives in the current culture we live in? How good a job is the church doing in glorifying God? Are there ways it could do better? How?
4. What kind of situations occur in our present day that would call for us to follow the guidance Paul gives in 1 Cor. 10:31? Have you ever been in such a situation? What did you do and what was the result?
5. 1 Cor. 6:20 suggests we are called to deny our own personal preferences and/or desires in favor of God's glory. Aside from the sexual context described in this passage, in what other situations do you imagine implementing self-denial in order to bring glory to God?
6. Has this passage challenged, confused or comforted you? Explain.

Memory Verse(s)



³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Cor. 10:31 (NIV)

Extra Resources



- ❖ “*Soli Deo Gloria*” – *Isaiah 42:8-9* - by Kyle Corbin, Nov. 15/20 (view at www.immanuelonline.ca). In this sermon, Pastor Kyle describes how God demands glory for Himself (and how we might give it to Him)!!
- ❖ “*The Weight of Glory*” – by C.S Lewis (sermon on June 8, 1941. See at <https://www.fadedpage.com/showbook.php?pid=20141033#c2>). Lewis discusses glory (in what has been called one of the most insightful sermons of the 20'th century).
- ❖ “*How to do Everything to the Glory of God*” – by Jon Bloom (article at www.desiringgod.com, Jan. 4, 2019). Bloom explains how by considering 1 Cor., 10:31 (and our personal freedom)).
- ❖ *Addition for last week:* “*Preach Christ*” by Griffen Gullette (from the blog “contra mundum” at www.griffengulledge.com). This post details 7 different ways to preach Christ from the OT (by connecting the dots).