

## Assurance of Salvation Part 78

### Glorifying God: HOW to glorify God (3)

**"WE MUST GLORIFY GOD."**

(It's a moral obligation.)

God's people delight in doing so.



Today, PART 3 of:  
**HOW to glorify God!**



ISSUES  
TO  
COVER

- The REMINDER
- Another "HOW"



### The REMINDER!



"HOW" to glorify God is **NOT** a technique!  
It involves VALUES and CHOICES.

- **IF** your values/choices do not agree with Scripture,  
**THEN** you are not glorifying God.  
(This means you are not following Jesus.)
- **IF** this characterizes the way you live,  
**THEN** you are not saved.



### THE "HOW" LIST

looking at #6

(We've already looked at the first 5.)



**"How do we glorify God?"**

#### 6) WE GLORIFY GOD when we are content in our circumstances.

- **This means:** We willingly accept what God has brought into our lives.
  - We trust him to accomplish good through it.
- **This does NOT mean:** We are happy (or content) with sin and injustice.
  - We must oppose sin, whenever we can.

- **This does NOT mean:** The situation will always be enjoyable.
  - We can admit the truth when things are unpleasant.
- **This does NOT mean:** We *shouldn't* change our situation if the opportunity arises.
  - If an opportunity comes our way, we are free to take it or leave it... depending on its impact on our effectiveness in the kingdom of God.



- Followers of Jesus often choose a "less pleasant" option, out of love for others.
  - They consider "maintaining love" to be more important than "maintaining rights."

EXAMPLE: Paul chose to NOT use his rights.

If you support others who preach to you, shouldn't we have an even greater right to be supported?

Yet we have never used this right. We would rather put up with anything than put an obstacle in the way of the Good News about Christ. = An expression of LOVE!

1 Cor. 9:12 (NLT)

EXAMPLE: Paul accepted the "lesser good" for the sake of others.

I feel torn between the two, because I have a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far,

but it is more vital for your sake that I remain in the body. = An expression of LOVE!

Philip. 1:23-24 (NET)

A MODERN EXAMPLE:

Many North Koreans who escape and later become Christians freely choose to return to their country (knowing it will result in death), so that their family and friends might have an opportunity to be saved. = An expression of LOVE!

If anyone had a reason to NOT be content, it was the apostle Paul.

Consider his circumstances:

- At Corinth, certain false "apostles" were trying to exploit the people, claiming to be superior to Paul.

For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

2 Cor. 11:13 (NET)

[Paul's example]

- To counteract these false apostles, Paul was forced to "brag" about himself – against his will.

This is what he says after he is done with his boasting:

I have become a fool. You yourselves forced me to do it, for I should have been commended by you.

For I lack nothing in comparison to those "super-apostles," even though I am nothing.

2 Cor. 12:11 (NET)

"I AM NOTHING"?

WHY DID HE CLAIM THIS?

Let's see! →

[Paul's example]

- As we shall see, Paul's "boasts" were quite unlike those of the fakes: His "boasts" were about his weakness, rather than his strength!
- **WHY?** This is because his power was from God, not from himself!

So then, I will boast most gladly about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may reside in me.

2 Cor. 12:9b (NET)

WHAT SPECIFICALLY DID HE BOAST ABOUT?

Let's see! →

[Paul's example]

- His first sentence sounds as though he's going to be bragging about his greatness...

Are they servants of Christ? (I am talking like I am out of my mind!) I am even more so: ...

2 Cor. 11:23a (NET)

- But "greatness" for a follower of Jesus is quite unlike the world's concept of "greatness."
- So imagine the Corinthians' surprise, when Paul continues... →

### [Paul's example]

... with much greater labors, with far more imprisonments, with more severe beatings, facing death many times.

Five times I received from the Jews forty lashes less one.

Three times I was beaten with a rod. Once I received a stoning. Three times I suffered shipwreck. A night and a day I spent adrift in the open sea.

= Willing to endure, because of LOVE!

2 Cor. 11:23b-25 (NET)

### [Paul's example]

I have been on journeys many times, in dangers from rivers, in dangers from robbers, in dangers from my own countrymen, in dangers from Gentiles,

in dangers in the city, in dangers in the wilderness, in dangers at sea, in dangers from false brothers,

in hard work and toil, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, many times without food, in cold and without enough clothing.

= Willing to endure, because of LOVE!

2 Cor. 11:26-27 (NET)

### [Paul's example]

Apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxious concern for all the churches.

Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not burn with indignation?

= An expression of LOVE!

2 Cor. 11:28-29 (NET)

(Unlike the fakes, he really cares about the people!)

WHAT WAS PAUL'S ATTITUDE IN ALL THIS?



- He knew that God's power expressed itself through his weakness! And that determined his attitude.

But [God] said to me, "My grace is enough for you, for my **power** is made perfect in **weakness**."

So then, I will boast most gladly about my **weaknesses**, so that the **power** of Christ may reside in me.

Therefore I am content with weaknesses, with insults, with troubles, with persecutions and difficulties for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am **weak**, then I am **strong**.

2 Cor. 12:9-10 (NET)

- He learned something that most people haven't. Here he plans to teach it to us:

**I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.**

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

I can do everything **through him who gives me strength**.

Philip. 4:11b-13 (NIV)

- He knew that God's goal is to accomplish our permanent, eternal good.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

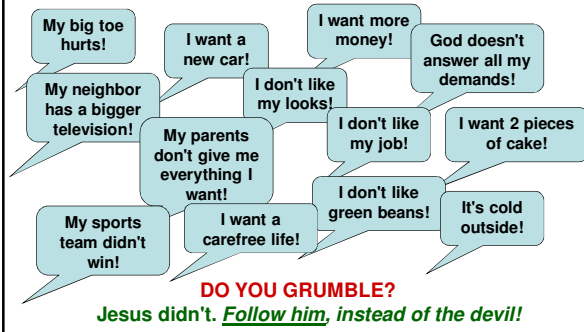
Romans 8:28 (NIV)

- Attaining this "good" may require us to experience temporary "not-so-good" ... just like it required JESUS.

[Jesus], who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

Compared to these things, so much of our "dis-contentment" is just plain trivial!



## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR BAD CIRCUMSTANCES.

### • IF your circumstances are caused by your own sins:

Some of the resulting consequences may be unchangeable in this life.

- Repent and accept the consequences.
- Trust God to accomplish ultimate good.

The thief on the cross illustrates this:

"We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man [Jesus] has done nothing wrong."

Luke 23:41 (NIV)

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR BAD CIRCUMSTANCES.

### • IF your circumstances are due to situations beyond your control: (other's sins, random "time and chance," etc.)

What Scripture says still holds true, regardless of cause.

- Be faithful to God and remain content.
- No matter what happens now, you will be rewarded at the Day of Justice.

What Jesus says to you:

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Rev. 2:10b (NIV)

## YOUR MISSION: Consider & Choose

### CONSIDER:

- **Your flesh** (sinful nature) does NOT want contentment.
- If you are saved, **your Spirit** (which comes from God) does want contentment.

**CHOOSE: The way that best expresses who (or what) controls you!**

## THE "GLORY" MANIFESTO

(continued)

- **I will be content in whatever circumstances God places me.**
  - Even if it is not the life I would prefer.

Two Scripture passages for those who want to be content in bad circumstances:

STILL SECURE

Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup;  
you have made my lot secure.

Psalms 16:5 (NIV)

GOD FOREVER

Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.  
My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever.

Psalms 73:25-26 (NIV)

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