

Assurance of Salvation Part 81

Glorifying God:

HOW to glorify God (6)

"WE MUST GLORIFY GOD."

(It's a moral obligation.)

God's people delight in doing so.



Today, PART 6 of:

HOW to glorify God!



ISSUES
TO
COVER

- The REMINDER
- 1 more "HOW"

The REMINDER!

"Glorifying God"
involves VALUES / 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 today at #12.

(We've already looked at the first 11.)



"How do we glorify God?"

1ST: A background issue

For the past 75 years,
atheists have told us
to keep God out of...

Many church-goers
have been willing
to comply...

They have given the
wicked control
over most of life.

- Politics
- Science
- Education
- Public life
- The work place
- Social issues
- Anything that matters

**Today, most church-goers
are willing to exclude
God from nearly
everything in life
that matters!**

THE JOKES I REPEAT
HOBBIES
MARRIAGE DECISIONS
JOB DECISIONS
RETIREMENT PLANNING
TECHNOLOGY
PUBLIC POLICY
MEDICAL DECISIONS
FINANCES
FOOD CHOICES
REPRODUCTION ISSUES
POLITICS
HOW I SPEAK TO OTHERS
USE OF FREE TIME
HOW I DRIVE
USE OF INTERNET
ATTITUDE TOWARD AUTHORITY
ENTERTAINMENT
VACATION DECISIONS
EDUCATIONAL POLICY
RECREATION
CLOTHING DECISIONS
CHOICE OF FRIENDS
SHOPPING

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Have you glorified the atheists, by catering to their demands?

OR: Have you glorified God?

It may have become more difficult, but glorifying God is still an obligation.

GOD?

- Politics
- Science
- Education
- Public life
- The work place
- Social issues
- Anything that matters

DON'T be like the world (and like many church goers)!!

WHO DOES GOD THINK HE IS, TELLING ME HOW I SHOULD LIVE?

WHO DO YOU THINK **YOU** ARE, TELLING ME TO KEEP OUT OF PUBLIC LIFE?



Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

Psalm 2:1, 4 (NIV)

A follower of Jesus will not only be concerned when the wicked dishonor God...


(REMEMBER THIS "HOW #4"?)

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4) WE GLORIFY GOD when we care about his glory and honor in the world.

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He will want to do something about it!



He will NOT be satisfied with letting this evil continue!

- He realizes that "**CARE**" about God's glory, if genuine, will translate into "**ACTION.**"
- This why the "#12 HOW" is...

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12) WE GLORIFY GOD when we promote his honor and glory in whatever way we can.

- "**PROMOTE GOD'S HONOR AND GLORY**"
 - We do not have to cooperate with the wicked, even though they may demand that we do so.
- "**IN WHATEVER WAY WE CAN**"
 - Promote it in ourselves and in others.
 - We might not always be able to stop others from dishonoring God, but we may be able to minimize it.

Participation in the sins of the wicked is not an option!

Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way.

Proverbs 4:14-15 (NIV)

Keep your GOD out of public life!

Rather, keep your **ATHEISM** out of public life!

Blessed is the person who **does not** follow the advice of wicked people, take the path of sinners, or join the company of mockers. Rather, he delights in the teachings of the Lord and reflects on his teachings day and night. He is like a tree planted beside streams—a tree that produces fruit in season and whose leaves do not wither. He succeeds in everything he does.

Psalms 1:1-3 (GW)

Those who dishonor God are NOT "neutral." (In reality, they are "suppressive.")

- It's a willful, NON-NEUTRAL choice that they make.

In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

Psalms 10:4 (NIV)

... what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

Romans 1:19 (NIV)

WHERE do we begin?

- We will not be satisfied until God's honor and glory "fill the earth" ...

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:14 (NIV)

And the Lord will be king over all the earth. On that day there will be one Lord—his name alone will be worshiped.

Zech. 14:9 (NLT)

A follower of Jesus will want to minimize the evil of others.

- That is part of what it means to be "salt" in the world!
 - Refusing to do this makes us worthless and worthy of judgment.

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men."

Matthew 5:13 (NIV)

But we don't start by dealing with the evil of others.

- We first begin with ourselves...

"You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, ..."

Matthew 7:5a (NIV)

- Before we then go on to others:

"... and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Matthew 7:5b (NIV)

GUIDING FACTORS (1)

- Motives and values are an issue.
 - Finding out what Scripture says (values) and having a desire (motives) to glorify God.
- But so is willingness to obey!
 - Without this willingness, all the learning in the world won't help you.

MOTIVES

NO MORE PRETENDING!! I am going to follow Jesus and include God in all of life!

VALUES

TO DO THIS, I must start finding out how God belongs in all of life!

OBEEDIENCE

AND as I learn, I will start to do it, rather than making excuses for not doing so!

GUIDING FACTORS (2)

- **"CONTEXT"** is also an issue.

- What you can (and should) do will depend on your situation.

This should be obvious!

What you can do in your own home will be different from what you can do in your neighbor's home.

What you can do as a leader with authority will be different than what you can do as a person under authority!

"To do, or not to do..."

What it doesn't mean.



- Don't commit sin, with the excuse that "good" will result!

★ Not even when people claim it's for a good cause! ★

- Down through the centuries, people have committed all kinds of sin – even murder – claiming that it was honoring to God!

- Today, various groups go about killing other people, saying it is for a good cause.
- Those who are religious often claim that it honors their god.
 - Even people who claimed to be "Christian" have been guilty of this!

★ If you are willing to learn the values and priorities of Scripture, you won't become guilty of this! ★



What if it involves people who have authority over us?

- We must watch our attitude!

Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

Romans 13:7 (NIV)

...for it is written: 'Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.'

Acts 23:5b (NIV)

This does not mean we **avoid** doing what is right, when leaders want what is wrong!!

> YAWN! <
AT LEAST IT'S NOT ME SINNING!
NOT THIS!!!

- There are legitimate and **necessary** forms of "civil disobedience."

We must be ready to "count the cost" of following Jesus.

- If evil rulers discover our acts of goodness, they may "punish" us!

We cannot
pretend the sin doesn't exist!



- We cannot **condone** actions that dishonor God!
– This is almost the same as approving them!

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Example #1

How should we respond if a ruler wants us to STOP talking about Jesus?

- Tell others about Jesus anyway!

The same way the apostles did!

"We gave you strict orders not to teach in [Jesus'] name," he said.

Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

Acts 5:28a, 29 (NIV)

(Today, this would include taking Bibles into countries where the leaders have declared Bibles "illegal.")

Example #2

How should we respond if a government wants to kill innocent people?

- Try to prevent it!

The same way Obadiah* did!

Obadiah* was a devout believer in the Lord. While Jezebel was killing off the Lord's prophets, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them in two caves, fifty in each, and had supplied them with food and water.

*(Not the one who wrote the book of "Obadiah") 1 Kings 18:3b-4 (NIV)

(Obadiah worked for the king; but he honored God by preventing the murder of the prophets.)

Example #3

How should we respond if people around us are constantly taking God's name in vain?

- We can ask them to stop.
- If our association is a matter of choice, we can stop associating with them!

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

1 Cor. 15:33 (NIV)

- We should also pray for their repentance. (We know the horrible judgment that awaits them.)

What if they persecute us for doing good?

- Should we stop doing what is right? **NO!**

So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

1 Peter 4:19 (NIV)

- We shouldn't be surprised. The wicked often do this.

Brothers and sisters, don't be surprised if the world hates you.

1 John 3:13 (GW)



HERE'S THE KEY!

- Just make sure you are suffering for the right cause!

If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

1 Peter 4:15-16 (NIV)

- We might succeed (or partly succeed) in stopping the evil.
- We might not succeed.
- The wicked may persecute us.

WE WILL BE HONORING GOD
and promoting his glory in the world!

Are you willing to promote God's glory?

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