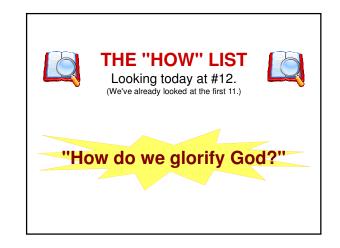
Assurance of Salvation Part 81

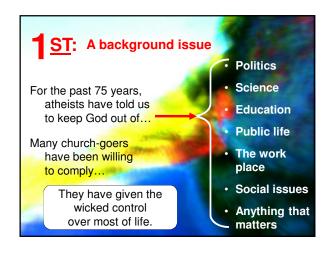
Glorifying God:

HOW to glorify God (6)

















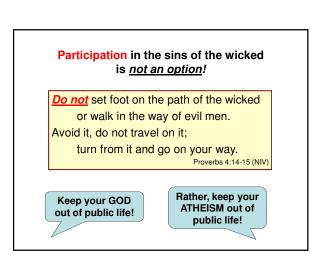


12) WE GLORIFY GOD when we promote his honor and glory in whatever way we can.
"PROMOTE GOD'S HONOR AND GLORY"

- 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.



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.

Psalm 1:1-3 (GW)

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

• It's a <u>willful, NON-NEUTRAL choice</u> that they make.

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

Psalm 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 <u>earth will be filled</u> 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 <u>over all the earth</u>. 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 <u>worthless</u> 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 <u>start</u> by dealing with the evil of others.

• We first begin with ourselves...

"You hypocrite, <u>first</u> take the plank out of your own eye, ..."

Matthew 7:5a (NIV)

• Before we then go on to others:

... and <u>then</u> 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 <u>how</u> God belongs in all of life!

### **OBEDIENCE**

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

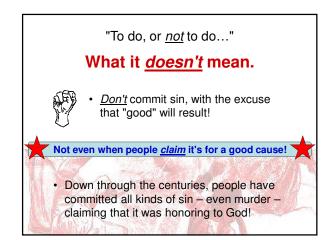
## **GUIDING FACTORS (2)**

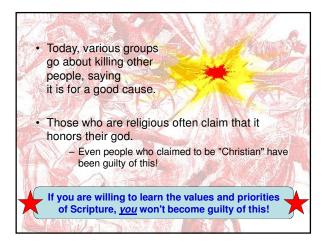
- "CONTEXT" is also an issue.
  - What you can (and should) do will depend on your situation.

### This should be obvious!

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

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







# 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)



# We cannot pretend the sin doesn't exist!



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

John Snape (CC BY-SA 3.0) modifie

### 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 <u>suffer as a Christian</u>, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name

1 Peter 4:15-16 (NIV)

## What results can we expect?

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

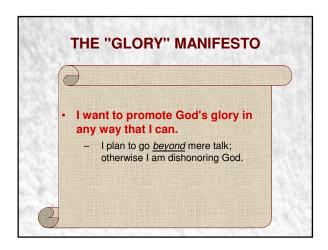
But the real issue is this:

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

## YOUR MISSION: DECIDE

Are you willing to promote God's glory?

 IF YOU <u>ARE</u> WILLING, IT WILL AFFECT YOUR CONDUCT!



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