Where's the Glory Pt.2

A message delivered to
MAYER COMMUNITY CHURCH

August 1, 1999

TITLE: Where's the Glory? - Part 2

TEXT: Psalm 84:8-12

THEME: The *Glory* that God has given to us

THRUST: *That Glory* is relational to the *glory* we give to Him!

INTRODUCTION:

I want us to visit again, this morning,
the *Glory* that God has given to us.
We saw last week that all too often, the Christian life is either
a facade of serenity or a face of sourness.

> Charles Haddon Spurgeon was sharing with a class of ministerial students about the importance of making the facial expression harmonize with the sermon. "When you speak of heaven," he said, "let your face light up, let it be irradiated with a heavenly gleam, let your eyes shine with reflected glory. But when you speak of hell — well, then your ordinary face will do!" ~James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988), p. 352.

That is the heart of our problem – rather than seeking *glory*;
we are satisfied with the ordinary – the ordinary will do!

> "The deeper Christian life," said A. W. Tozer, "is the willingness to quit trying to use the Lord for our ends and to let him work in us for his glory." ~A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)

In speaking of the *glory* of the Gospel,
that has been revealed to us, The Apostle Paul said"

> **Colossians 1:27-28** "To whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. [28]And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.

Psalm 84:8-12

- The *Pursuit of* Glory
- The *Passion in* Glory

I. The *Pursuit of* Glory v.11

We are all involved in *the pursuit of Glory*
some pursue *God's* glory while others pursue their *own*!

The secret of every discord in Christian homes and communities and churches is that we seek our own way and our own glory." ~Alan Redpath, Leadership, Vol. 3, no. 2.

God has said that He will not share His glory with anyone!
Paul stated that he would glory in His weakness
because that is where God's strength was most manifested!

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The real legacy of my life was my biggest failure – that I was an ex-convict. My greatest humiliation--being sent to prison – was the beginning of God's greatest use of my life; He chose the one experience in which I could not glory for His glory. ~Charles W. Colson, *Loving God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983), p.24

God is looking for men in whose hands his glory is safe. ~A. W. Tozer, Leadership, Vol. 3, no. 3.

Ps 84:11 "For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor *(glory KJV)*; no good thing does he withhold
from those whose walk is blameless. (NIV)

Are we really willing to give God the *Glory* due His name?

All too often we regard stewardship simply as a matter of our giving to God, but this aspect is secondary. Before we can give, we must possess, and before we possess we must receive. Therefore, stewardship is, in the first place, receiving God's good and bounteous gifts. And once received, those gifts are not to be used solely for our own good. They must also be used for the benefit of others, and ultimately for the glory of God the giver. The steward needs an open hand to receive from God and then an active hand to give to God and to others. ~Murray J. Harris in Voices (Vol XIII, No. 3, 1987). Christianity Today, Vol. 32, no. 4.

The *Pursuit of Glory* means that we have to be in the *position*
to *receive* from Him … *the Lord bestows favor and glory*
we have to receive it!
No good thing does He withhold from them whose walk is blameless
How's your walk?

The reason we do not have *glory* to manifest
is because we don't give God the glory due His name.
He said, "He that honors me, I will honor." —1 Sam. 2:30

Do you have a *passion* to honor God?

II. The *Passion in* Glory

Glory is a *passion* for God's presence vs. 1-2 & 10

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD Almighty!
2 My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God…
10 Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked."

Is there *any place* you would rather be this morning?
One of the popular bumper stickers of our day
states: "I'd rather be fishing, golfing, whatever ..."
My thought is always ... "Well, then go do whatever..."
I don't know if that is because I am behind them
or because it is a fundamental part of my nature
that I am always happiest where I am – right!
(self depreciating humor)

We all experience times when we would rather
be somewhere else, doing something else
maybe even *anything else*
than what we are presently involved with,
but that should *never* be the attitude
of God's people about His presence.

That *Presence* is *pursued* through prayer vs. 8-9

"Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty;
listen to me, O God of Jacob
9 Behold, Our Shield,
O God look upon the face of your anointed one."

When is the last time you prayed
and asked God to be gracious to you?
When Nehemiah would pray,
he would say, "O LORD, remember me for good...."
When did you last ask God to consider your situation
and defend you from your enemies...

whether those enemies be
from outside influences or from within?
Perhaps we are too ashamed
in our walk to ask God to look upon our face.
Too ashamed to look on His face!
Remember Moses?
He removed the veil when he was in the presence of God ...
Perhaps we are not at the place
in our interpersonal relationships
where we can truly reveal who/what we are to each other,
but we can certainly remove that veil before God.
We can ask, along with David, for God to view our face!
What we are talking about here is *God's Glory* ...
the *glory* that He wants to manifest through us.
The *glory* that the whole world is waiting to see.

> **Psalm 27:8** When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, O LORD, I shall seek." (NAS)
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> Resolved: that all men should live for the glory of God. Resolved second: That whether others do or not, I will. ~Jonathan Edwards, Leadership, Vol. 6, no. 1.

Several years ago, at the peak of the Olympic summer games
there was a phrase that was seen on bumper stickers,
T-Shirts and numerous other places: "No Guts, No Glory!"

Where is the *passion* of the people of God?
Why are we not consumed with a *passion* for God?
Why are we not more consistent in our demonstration
of the *Glory of God*?

The reason we do not manifest *His Glory*
is because we are not truly pursuing *His* glory.
Perhaps we have forgotten
that the Lord is our *sun and shield*!
The Lord is our *light* and
we are the reflection of His light to the world!

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> A little girl got home from Sunday school, where she had been taught the verse: Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to our Father who is in heaven. She asked her mother, when she repeated the verse, what it meant. Her mom said, "Well, it means that when you are good and kind and

thoughtful and obedient, you are letting Christ's light shine in your life before all who know you."

The very next Sunday in Sunday school, the little girl got in a bit of a fracas with another student and created somewhat of an uproar — to such an extent that the Sunday school teacher had to go and find her mother to get her settled down a bit in the class. Her mother was concerned when she got to the classroom and said, "Sweetie, don't you remember about letting your light shine for the Lord...?" The girl blurted out, "Mom, I have blowed myself out."

Many of us have done just that. In our relationship to Christ, our light has gone out. ~W. Frank Harrington, "The Love That Brought Him," Preaching Today, Tape No. 51.

Isaiah 63:3 *We hid, as it were, our faces from Him....*

That's what Adam did in the garden
We no longer have to hide from God!

Let's ask God to *look at our face*!
Let's ask God to rekindle our *passion for His Glory*
We pursue our passions!

CONCLUSION: Hymn #79 *My Tribute*