

# Glory Is Easier With Kneepads

## INTRODUCTION

Jonathan Edwards "God has respect to Himself, as his last and highest end, in this work; because he is worthy in himself to be so, being infinitely the greatest and best of beings...All that is ever spoken of in the scripture as an ultimate end of God's works is included in that one phrase, the Glory of God."

## DISCUSSION

What does it mean that God is first and foremost concerned with His own glory?

## EXPLANATION

Read Roman 15:8-13.

What do you notice about salvation as it is tied to God's glory?

What does it mean that God is completely God centered?

How does God, being God centered, bring us more hope?

## APPLICATION

Do you stake the answers to your prayers on God's love for His glory?

When you open the scriptures do you do it to understand God's glory or find something for yourself?

How can we approach the scriptures with God in mind first?

## MISSION

How do God's people, living for His glory, translate into mission?

What is the best way to bring glory to God in how we interact with those around us?

How can a better understanding of God's glory actually make us a more joyful people?

## Read Ahead

This week, read through Genesis 8:1-22

## Week 15

FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

Genesis 8:1



1 Corinthians 10:13

John 11:4

John 9:1-3

Amos 3:6

Lamentations 9:1-3

1 Corinthians 10:31

Isaiah 48:9-11; 2:22

Psalms 146:3

Jeremiah 17:5

Isaiah 40:15, 17; 48:11

Ezekiel 36:22-23

Ephesians 1:6

Isaiah 43:7

Exodus 9:16

Ezekiel 20:14

1 Samuel 8:4-6

Daniel 9:17

Romans 15:8-9

John 12:27-28

Genesis 8:1

Genesis 9:15; 19:29; 30:22

Exodus 2:24; 32:13

Psalms 25:6-7; 74:2

NOTES & SCRIPTURE

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# Glory Is Easier With Kneepads

1 Corinthians 10:13 “God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

Did you know first century Christians in Rome were considered atheists? Rome was a culture with gods, literally, on every street corner. One of the reasons there were so many gods, and they were encouraged, was that idolatry sells. False religion taps into people’s fears and insecurities; we look for anything that brings us safety, comfort, and control.

Once Christianity gained traction in the Roman Empire, more people began refusing to believe that all the deaf, mute, and blind idols of their culture could deliver what they really needed. Instead, they worshipped Jesus alone. Most people today, even Christians, instead of walking by faith that God works out all things for good, walk by *sight* instead of *faith*. By doing this, we try to take matters into our own hands and fashion idols that promise safety and control.

All of our sight-driven fear has obscured what God has done in the course of history. While there is no guarantee of the good life *now*, we must believe less of what we see (and the superstitious baggage that comes with that believing) and more of what we have heard proclaimed: God saves sinners, and He is reconciling the world to Himself....but it is done in His way in His timing.

We must understand and remember that all things are about God’s glory.

There is a propensity for people to run from the fact that GOD IS IN CHARGE. Christians are always trying to make excuses and DEFEND God for things He doesn’t try to defend Himself against. There has become a search to try to let God off the hook for problems in the world AS IF He is not in control of them. But you can’t get around God’s sovereignty

- *Amos 3:6 Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the Lord has done it?*
- *Lam 3:38 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?*

God is not concerned about people blaming Him. This is something you and I will struggle with, but it can also be comforting in best possible way; God is in charge, and you and I don’t have to be.

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Throughout scripture God is constantly taking people into places they fear, and more importantly, places they could get hurt and even killed. He does not do this to be mean, He does it because it makes us grow. God is not concerned so much with safety, as He is constantly stripping away all our safety nets, and sending us into the unknown.

In story after story, God, by removing the trappings of safety, has caused deep growth in everyone throughout the scriptures. Fear can entice us to hide and run from embracing the unknown things of life, but life is always unknown for everyone except God. We must trust Him when He does things we do not understand, we must honor Him when we feel lost, and we must glorify Him by trusting He has a plan.

We can trust that God knew what he was doing in the flood, when Jesus died and rose, and especially when adversity comes into our lives. We must trust God’s goal of His glory because, in the end, that brings His people joy no matter how He extends grace.

If you understand His glory, it all makes sense.

Even resurrection is not understandable without first understanding how God’s glory leads to the cross. God doesn’t take short cuts. We must all go through the fire, and in so doing, we will find out if we truly believe that our lives are about God’s glory or our own.

...and it is about His.

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