

Intro: As followers of Jesus Christ we live in two worlds at same time: Physical and Spiritual. We SEE the first one...ever present with us. We KNOW the second is there...Can't see it...often forget/overlook

Because we have those 2 very different realities calling to us all the time, often get confused. We Struggle *We KNOW this world is not our home, we are strangers and pilgrims, passing through: Not feel that way*

For example, when we read the bible...we SHOULD be reading SPIRITUALLY....Often: PHYSICALLY
Col 1:27 "God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory!"

We read that and if we aren't careful we read Glory and we MISREAD Paul's intention, because we think, Oh, He is talking about the Glory I am familiar with...the glory of THIS world...NOT TRUE! DEF:

1. *High renown or honor won by notable achievements* (Lombardi Trophy)
2. *Magnificence or great beauty, a thing that is beautiful, distinctive, a special cause for pride* Necklace
3. *Praise, worship, and thanksgiving offered to a deity!* (That is Paul's definition) Life offered to God

When Paul writes to us about "*Christ in you, the hope of Glory!*" Not Achievement, Not Pride, An Act of worship, adoration and thankfulness offered to God OTHERS see...and recognize! HIS WORK The "*Glory*" that is revealed is the work of SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION God produces in us! Others see God at work in us...through us and that causes Him to be glorified...not about us...About Him!

4 Works Of God In Your Life That Bring God Glory

1. Your Salvation Brings God Glory:

Vs 21-23

When others see what you WERE...and then witness what you ARE...It brings God glory!

- Alienated: *Estranged:* Illus: Like two family members not speaking! Far apart!
- Enemies: *Actively opposed and Hostile toward God* Nothing to do with Him!
- Behavior: *Having a lifestyle of evil behavior and actions totally opposite of what God wants*

But, once you come into relationship with God, Others can see the change:

- Reconciled: *To bring those far apart back together*
- Holy: *Not perfect, but set apart Don't have to be perfect: Different!!!* TELL
- Without blemish: *Word to describe temple offering:* (Sheep: Not lame, mange, blind, broken leg)
- No Accusation: Legal term: *Not charges brought against you!*

Illus: Here is what Paul is saying: You don't have to be perfect: Knowing Jesus makes you DIFFERENT
Ever been to Southern Louisiana?? Changing Tire on my RV

Whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God!

When the world around you sees that...It brings Glory to God!

2. Your Servanthood Brings God Glory

Vs 24-25

Servanthood is a perfect example of how spiritual glory is the opposite of physical glory! Physical glory says, I am important, I am number one, I win, my needs count, my way is the right way. Spiritual glory says, YOU are first...YOU are important...YOUR way counts...YOU are number one!

Illus: Disciples were arguing one day, Jesus overheard them, asked them...what are arguing about: First
"If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:35

Intentional Servanthood on Behalf of Christ To Others Brings God glory

You are never more like Jesus than when you CHOOSE to be a servant to others: Brings Glory to God!

- Vs 24: I rejoice when I suffer for you! Lit = *a hardship, pain or difficult situation*
- Vs 24: A servant of the body, the church, for the sake of the gospel! *Paul laid down His life*

When you use your gift: Glory When you give your time: Glory When you offering: Glory
Listen...as followers of Jesus Christ, that is what we are called to: To be a servant of others: Like Jesus

Following Jesus...being His disciple, Being His servant for others sake is costly

Illus: It is important for us to ask the right question here"

- American cultural Christianity question: What is in it for ME? How much can I GET?
- Right question: How can I serve YOU? How much can I GIVE?

3. Your Speaking Up For The Gospel Brings God Glory.

Vs 28

Anytime you point people to Jesus, the Glory of God begins to shine just a little more brightly through you. It happens both when you tell others that don't know Him, and when you encourage those that do!

- **Proclaim:** *to declare, proclaim, preach or teach others about God* Phil 2: Shine like stars/ Hold out
- **Admonish:** *to caution or reprove gently; to admonish or to correct* Stop wrong thing
- **Teach:** *to instruct, communicate truth, instill right doctrine and correct living*

Now look...doing those things is not an END in itself. You do those things for a specific purpose, with an end result in mind...and it is the end result that brings glory to God.

So that: Purpose clause...we may present everyone Perfect (mature, complete, in Christ!

Paul is saying, listen, I have a goal..to win people to Jesus, correct wrong behavior and instill right understanding and behavior such that when we all stand before Jesus, we are what He calls us to be.

And when we do that...When we find atheists and pagans and unbelievers and confused people...help them understand who Jesus is, put the pieces of broken lives and hearts back together...Glorifies Him!

4. Your Suffering For The Sake Of The Gospel Brings God Glory! Vs 24, 29

Now this one is not going to be very popular...but you CANNOT escape it if you are going to be a serious follower of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, if anyone wants to follow me, pick up your cross daily...come after I know that isn't the normal message you are going to get on your podcast, webcast, tv broadcast. But, if you read the NT and listen to what Jesus says, that is the truth of the gospel. It is COSTLY to follow Him

Paul references this 3 times, in 3 different ways in this passage of Scripture

- Vs 24: Suffering for you: Individual people (to serve other people)
When you sacrifice for the good of others: Brings Glory to God
- Vs 24 Fill up suffering for sake of the body (the Church)
Jesus loved church, Gave Himself as we do that...Brings Glory to God
- Vs 29 To present others to Him: (Bringing people to Jesus) Glory!

Illus: This suffering to serve Jesus, to help others, and to serve His Bride, the Church Part of our calling The American Church...we aren't very good about it...because our starting point is WRONG
American's starting point: What's in it for me?...How do I elevate myself
Christians starting point: Whats in it for God...How do I elevate Him

Illus: I have this discussion with every young Pastor I know...when they get hurt: Goes something like this
For the times you suffer, get hurt, pay a price because of people doing things shouldn't : I'm sorry
For the times you are called to pick up your cross and follow Him NO APOLOGY

CONCL: So, as we close this morning...let me ask you...How are you doing? God's Glory shining

- Are you being transformed? Can others see Jesus in you
Whatever you do...(Change tire) do it all for the glory of God!
- Are you an intentional servant? Do you every single day wake up and say...Jesus being God Humbled Himself...and taking the very nature of a servant...Laid his life down for others
Maybe it's time for you to choose this week to put others FIRST...be like Jesus
When you do that...the Glory of God shines through
- Are you sharing Jesus in such a way that lives are being changed!
At home with your family...moms and dads...modeling it...At school...at work...on Sports field
- Are you willing to pay a price to follow Jesus? Pick up your cross, lay down life...serve Him
Glory!

Prayer

Father, the deepest desire of my heart is to bring you glory...I want to walk so closely with you that your glory shines through me every minute of the day

But Father I know I am a sinner. Please forgive me for my sins. Help me to lay down my life, pick up my servants towel, open my mouth to proclaim your goodness. Help me BE all you created me to be, and called me to be when you made me your child.

I confess I fall short every single day...but this week with your help...I'm going to live up to

- **My salvation**
- **Be a true servant**
- **Speak to others**
- **Be willing to suffer any cost**

To bring people to you...and shine like YOU want me to shine. Amen