

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 7, 2025

“To God Be the Glory! ~ An Introduction”

Psalm 115 // 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 // Matthew 5:13-16

“Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory...” (Psalm 115:1)

This verse sets the tone not only for the rest of the psalm, but for the entire Christian _____. Indeed, this anniversary isn’t about what we’ve built or accomplished; it’s about everything that _____ has done, in and through us, by His _____, in establishing, growing, and sustaining us these past ten years.

We live in a world obsessed with _____, status, and _____.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house...in the same way, let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

“We have this treasure in clay jars.” (2 Corinthians 4:7)

God put this treasure in us—in clay jars—so that He can show the world that this strength and power is from Him and not us, so that we won’t become a _____ or stumbling block to anyone encountering His grace; so that, ultimately, He might get all the _____.

3 TRUTHS ABOUT GIVING GLORY TO GOD

Truth #1. We give glory to God_____.

“Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness.” (Psalm 115:1)

The human heart is so easily prone to _____ that it needs to be told twice. It needs to be reminded that it’s not about us, but about God; and that, all the glory, _____, praise, belongs to Him and Him alone.

2 REASONS ALL THE GLORY IS GOD’S

Reason #1: God’s_____.

***Hes’ed* (Hebrew) =**

It’s a concept that encompasses _____, faithfulness, goodness, and grace that goes far beyond mere _____, and involves benevolent care and action. It isn’t just a feeling, but a profound and enduring _____ of God’s very character and nature.

Reason #2: God’s_____.

***Emet* (Hebrew) =**

It refers to the firmness, _____, and reliability of God to keep His _____.

We glorify God not just for what we’ve _____ from Him—although it’s important that we do that—but, first and foremost, for who He is and how He _____ towards us.

The OT clearly shows that the people of Israel had a long history of _____, failing, and rebelling, and if there was any victory, it was clearly _____ doing.

The same can be said of us—we all mess up, we all make mistakes, we’re all _____ in need of forgiveness, and any merit that we might have, is a gift of God’s _____.

“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:31b)

All the glory belongs to God, not to the people of Israel, and most definitely not to us! Our _____ is 100% the work of God.

Where in your life right are you tempted to claim the glory?

Is it in your career success? Your children’s accomplishments?

Your spiritual growth? Your financial stability?

Truth #2. We give glory to God by_____.

“Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; they make no sound in their throats.” (Psalm 115:4-7)

After declaring God’s glory, the psalmist turns to a _____, and describes the idols of the nations: silver and gold, crafted by human hands. They’re _____, yet people put so much trust and _____ in

them—trust and hope that belongs to God, and God alone.

“Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.” (Psalm 115:8)

This is a Kingdom Principle: What we worship will eventually form and shape us into the exact _____ image. To put it another way, we become what we _____.

“And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.” (2 Corinthian 3:18)

As we worship Jesus, we’ll become more and more like Him, through the _____ work of the Holy Spirit. The opposite, according to the psalmist also true: idolaters become like their _____: lifeless, senseless, and _____ to God.

OUR IDOLS

- _____: The idol that promises _____, but never fully satisfies.
- _____: The idol that drives us to _____, always demanding more.
- _____: The idol that leaves us _____ with every indulgence.
- _____: Perhaps the most _____ idol, where we _____ ourselves and our own desires above God and His Word.

In the face of this temptation to rely on, and bow before idols, the psalmist calls to _____ in something, or rather, someone, who actually has the power to _____ what He promises. Trusting in God—in His character, His promises, and His power—is the _____ to idolatry.

Jeremiah 17:5-7 and Proverbs 3:5-6

Where are you tempted to trust in idols instead of God? Is it in your bank account? Your reputation? Your own cleverness or ability?

Truth #3. We give glory to God as we _____.

“The Lord has been mindful of us; he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron; he will bless those who fear the Lord, both small and great. May the Lord give you increase, both you and your children. May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” (Psalm 115:12-15)

“The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth he has given to mankind.” (Psalm 115:16)

Although He created it all, and everything in the heavens and the earth, and under the earth belongs to Him, God has entrusted _____ to us, so that we might live for His glory.

He’s giving us a clear call that while we live, while we still have breath in our lungs, we’re called to _____ God. This is our _____ purpose in this life, before and above all else.

Our time on earth isn’t just about the stewardship of things—our time, talents, and treasures—it’s also a _____ stewardship—a chance to bless the Lord with our lips, our lives, and our love.

“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.” (Romans 11:36)

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

This calling to praise and glorify God isn’t just for this life only, and Psalm 115:18 extends it all the way into _____.

“But we will bless the Lord from this time on and forever more.” (Psalm 115:18)

“Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, ‘To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might forever and ever!’” (Revelation 5:13)

The primary thing that we’ll be doing in heaven, and for all eternity, is _____ God because that’s what we were created to do, that is or _____ purpose and calling.

This is where a life lived for God’s glory ends: not in _____, but in _____ and praise.

How are you blessing the Lord with your life? Do others see in you a life that says, “To God be the glory?”