

the ordinary and routine matters of life in a God-honouring way in faithfulness and love and care for God and His glory and for our neighbor's wellbeing. Who you are at home in the family God has placed you in, in your marriage, with your brothers and sisters, and who you are in church life with all others, and who you are in the workplace, and at school, and in your neighborhood, is where our Christianity either shines to God's glory or shrivels to our shame and with no God-honouring witness at all. If you and I will live *"that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ"*, then all things, everything counts, and we should be mindful of whatever we think, say, and do, that all be to God's praise and glory and reflect His love in Christ Jesus.

One more true help in living with the resolve *"that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ"* is to always keep before you that one day there will come an end to this life, and there will be the final judgment day, and God will bring in the new and eternal world. How meaningful life becomes when you daily remember the brevity of life here and now, and the eternity to follow. When you daily keep this in view, that helps so much in setting our priorities right, in keeping from materialism, and for redeeming the time. Are you living diligently waiting for Christ's second coming, always ready for when He may come or when we suddenly may be called to meet Him?

Is this your godly resolve living in true faith, day by day, these words of I Peter 4:11, *"that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ"*? In stating yet what great good comes from living as God so directs us, we can be very brief just asking, "Don't you know that not living by God's Word is the way of the curse and death, but living by God's Word in the way of Christian faith and obedience is the way of life and fullness of life, indeed, eternal life?" Maybe I can put it this way to drive home also this concluding point. A cat couldn't survive long without its God-given whiskers....and you and I can't be truly blessed nor truly be a blessing without the God-given wisdom of God's Word in our hearts, and the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ as our only Saviour and Lord in our lives. That's the truth, plain and simple. Amen.

Hans Overduin, Radio Pastor

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BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST

Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)



THAT GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

Dear friends, not too long ago I learned a fact about cat whiskers which can serve as a good introduction to this gospel message. Did you know that a cat's whiskers are exactly as wide as the widest part of its body? That way a cat can know if it's trying to squeeze its head through the open end of a pipe or the slats of a fence, whether the rest of its body will fit. If its whiskers brush the pipe or the fence, the cat knows not to try to go through.

Thinking of this, wouldn't it be nice if you and I could know before doing a certain thing whether we're going to get into trouble? Wouldn't it be great to know, before we even go a certain way, if it's a good way or if it will lead us down a wrong path and in a sinful and harmful way? Did you know God has given us something very special to guide us most reliably? We have something much better than cat whiskers even. Do you know what that is? God's Word, the Holy Bible! God gave his inspired, authoritative, infallible Word to guide you and me into the future, to guard us from wrong paths, and to guide us in right ways.

In this message I invite you to look with me at God's Word from I Peter 4:11. Here the apostle Peter gives Holy Spirit led direction as to how we are called to live, especially as confessing Christians, namely, *"that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ."* Let us think further about this goal of the Christian life *"that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ"*, under the following points.

- 1] This godly goal to have
- 2] The gracious guidelines for this goal
- 3] The great good this goal brings when this is your and my holy resolve

Speaking of this as a godly goal to have, *"that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ"*, it needs to be stated at the start, clearly this is not the resolve of anyone by nature or as we are born. People make all kinds of aims and resolves in life, but by nature a person never makes any resolutions for God as revealed in Christ and for the promotion of His praise and honour above all. But for a Christian it is different and for good reasons. When saved by grace from sin, Satan, death and hell, you know there is all the reason in the world to give and dedicate yourself wholly for God and His gospel cause and our neighbour's wellbeing in that way. Life takes on holy meaning and happy purpose when saved by Christ and lived for Christ in

humble gratitude and holy devotion to Him in accordance with all His Word and will. Apart from Christ we are lost and going nowhere but downhill even when we may be getting ahead in terms of this world and all it offers. But a Christian knows we were created for God, to know and enjoy Him forever, and always to live to His praise.

If no more would be said or could be said about this, however, it would be rather depressing and hopeless, for what can we do of ourselves? People make all kinds of resolutions, even about daily habits in life, that end up going nowhere. What then of having this spiritual resolve ever to look to Christ and to love and serve Him, and in all things to glorify God in your life? Surely it will always all come to nothing, except that the way Peter calls us to so resolve to live is one that takes hold of divine strength, yes, of God's grace and power! See how that comes out in the text. Peter says just before this verse that we are to live for God in every way He calls us to, how we are to do that, namely, with "the ability which God gives"—so not in your own strength but always depending on the Lord for everything. Notice too what Peter says, "*that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ*". That phrase, "*through Jesus Christ*", is again saying not in your own strength and power, but ever and again looking to Christ as your only Saviour from sin, and your strength against all sin, and your Helper in all resolve for good, and steadfastly increasing therein. It is somewhat the same as Paul exhorts in II Timothy 1:14 where he says to Timothy, "*That good thing which was committed unto [you], keep...*" In your own strength? No! "*Keep by the Holy Spirit [Who] dwells in us.*"

Without Christ always in us and with us and for us, you and I can do nothing that is God-honouring and in promotion of His church and kingdom. Peter had learned this lesson painfully, didn't he? There was a time when as follower of Christ, Peter had a lot of proud self-confidence, but he learned especially through his threefold denial of Jesus, even the night of Christ's crucifixion, what a weak and sinful person he was in himself. But this is the good news, the gospel message, through Christ the Saviour, ever looking to Him and leaning on Him and led by the Holy Spirit, we can be strong and live for God and His cause in a way that our lives also become most useful and fruitful to the glory of God!

There is one more point we should notice about the godly resolve here that Peter gives us. The inspired apostle says our purpose in life should be what? "*That God in all things may be glorified.*" 'All things' means all things, in other words, that in no way and nothing at all we bring dishonour to God, but always in all things seek ever His praise and glory. Do you have and know of and want to grow in this way of total commitment to God, and living wholeheartedly to His praise? If it is well, you don't want any part of your life in any moment or time not to be dedicated and devoted to God and His glory. Is that the way it is for you too?

In promotion and encouragement of exactly this godly resolve, let me give now in the light of the Scriptures some gracious guidelines or helps in so living "*that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ.*" God gave cats whiskers to guide them, but how much more God gives us to guide us in the way we should go and not go. Can you think of some guidelines in living wholly for God and good in your life?

For one, always let God's Word be your guide and be regularly into God's Word. Some people don't have opportunity or the freedom for this as others, but in many places, especially in the western world, we have lots of opportunities and privileges to be in and under the Word of God, to read the Bible and study it. God's Word gives divine direction for us in all matters and with all choices and decisions and activities pursued. My friend, are you a person often under God's Word, seeking to have the Word of God in your mind and heart even as you go out each day again? When I was 16 years old, one of my older brothers gave me a little Bible with these words written in the front. "Reading this book will keep you from sin, sin will keep you from reading this book." Is that not the way it truly is in reality? It takes work and discipline to have daily devotions, but often how blessed we are when doing so, and many a time how cold and wrong-hearted we become when not doing so. The beginning of backsliding starts with an increasingly closed Bible in your home and life. If you will live "*that God in all things may be glorified through Christ Jesus*", it can't be and won't be without being often into and under God's holy Word. Are you persuaded of this and does your life reflect this truth?

A second guideline closely associated with this first is prayer to God. Prayer to God not simply as a formality, but as a daily calling upon the Lord as our only Saviour and Defender, our Light and our Refuge and our Strength is something needed every day, each true Christian will know this most certainly. We begin each day and week again bringing with it our sinful self by nature, and the devil is yet a fearful foe, especially also as we draw nearer to the end of this world before Christ comes again, and besides that, the world is ever alluring with so many attractive powers that no one can stand on his own, except God help us, moment by moment, day by day, and week after week. Is prayer to the God of the Bible something daily and habitual in your life?

But not only read God's Word and pray often, remember that details and small things count! Here remember Jesus' words in Luke 16:10: "*He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.*" Clearly from the Bible's teaching you shouldn't think living the Christian life is something that only can be done going on a mission trip or doing something spectacular and out of the ordinary ... but rather, we show and prove our Christianity mostly in living in