

“Ascribed Glory”
Psalm 29
(Preached at Trinity, June 6, 2010)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. God is magnificent to behold; He is unrivaled in splendor. To gaze upon His excellence is the greatest pursuit of man. God calls upon all of creation to give Him glory. This is David’s charge in this psalm.
Psalm 29:1 – “Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength.”
2. This psalm can be divided into three parts:
Verses 1-2 – David gives his charge to give God all due glory.
Verses 3-10 – David describes the sovereignty of God over all things in heaven and earth
Verse 11 – David gives a benediction of God’s blessings upon His people.
- I. **Verses 1-2** – David gives his charge to give God all due glory.
 - A. “Give unto the LORD”
 1. This could best be translated “Ascribe to the LORD” as we’ll see later in this sermon
 2. Who are these mighty ones spoken of here?
Literally it is translated “sons of the gods”
NAS – “sons of the mighty”
 - a. Some think it refers to angelic beings. The CSV and ESV take the liberty to translate it this way – “heavenly beings.”
 - b. Angels are a possibility, but it probably should be seen more broadly to include the mighty of the earth as well.
Spurgeon: “Ye great ones of earth and of heaven, kings and angels -- ye lords among men need thus to be reminded, for ye often fail where humbler men are ardent; but fail no longer, bow your heads at once, and loyally do homage to the King of kings.”
 3. We owe to God all praise and worship – He is worthy of all glory.
Psalm 29:2 – “Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”
 - B. What does David mean by:
“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name”
 1. First when we talk about God’s glory we mean the glory that is intrinsic to His being – His essential glory.
 - a. This is the glory that is basic to His nature
 - b. God’s glory is the essence of His divine being.
It is the manifestation of His Divine attributes.
 - c. God’s essential glory can’t be added to or diminished.

2. When Moses asked God to show him His glory listen to what God says, **Exodus 33:18-20** – “I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. ¹⁹ And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. ²⁰ And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.”
 3. What did God mean, “I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee?”
 - a. God was telling Moses I’ll teach you of my Divine essence.
 - b. Moses said, “I want to *see* thy Glory.” God says I’ll show you all that I am. I’ll show you My goodness, My grace, and My mercy.”
 4. What did we see when Christ came into the world?
John 1:14 – “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”
^{NAS} **Colossians 2:9** – “For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form,”
 5. But there is a difference between God’s essential or intrinsic glory and His ascribed glory.
 - a. We can add nothing to God’s essential glory.
You cannot make water wet. It is what it is.
You cannot make God more than He is. He is what He is.
He is infinite in all of His being.
 - b. His ascribed glory is that which we recognize and declare openly upon the earth.
- C. How do we ascribe glory unto God?
1. It first demands knowing about His essential glory
 - a. In the New Testament the word for glory meant “to seem to appear.” Later it came to mean, “to hold an opinion of someone.” Thus giving glory to God meant to express a right opinion about God.
 - b. Giving God glory begins with knowing about Him
 - c. This is why the Word of God is essential not only to knowing God but to giving glory to God.
 - d. This is why after David commands all to ascribe glory to God he then goes on to describe God.
 2. We give glory to God when we ascribe to Him the greatness due His name.
 - a. We give glory to God when we worship Him in a manner that reflects that greatness.
“worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”
^{ESV} **Psalm 29:2** – “worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.”
Let others come and witness how we worship God

- b. We give glory to God when we live in a manner that reflects His supreme authority and power – when we live in holiness
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”
- c. We give glory to God when He is our focus in all things; when He is our full source of joy and contentment; when you demonstrate that you are satisfied in Him.
- 3. This is the duty of all men but especially all who know Him.
 - a. The first question in the Shorter and Spurgeon’s Catechism
What is the chief end of man?
Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.
 - b. The lost man refuses to give God the glory due His name
Romans 1:21 – “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”
 - c. Believers place a high emphasis on giving God glory
Romans 4:20 – “He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God”
- 4. Spiritual maturity is giving all attention to God – considering Him in all that you do. Seeking to know Him more.
And again, this can only come through the Word of God.
- 5. It is our duty to manifest this glory throughout the whole world.
 - a. After the Ark was brought to Jerusalem David proclaimed:
1 Chronicles 16:24 – “Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations.”
 - b. Listen to the words of Peter
1 Peter 2:12 – “Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

- II. **Verses 3-9** – David describes the sovereignty of God over all things in heaven and earth
 - A. David describes God mighty power over the mighty storms – **Verses 3-7**
 - 1. We must notice first the inseparable connection David places between the work of God and the Word of God. David uses the word “voice” seven times in this psalm
Psalms 29:3 – “The voice of the LORD *is* upon the waters”
 - a. In the creation account God spoke all things into existence.
Genesis 1:3 – “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”

- b. The writer of Hebrews speaks of Christ upholding all things by His Word
Hebrews 1:3 – “Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”
- c. The common teaching today is that everything must be explained by science and what they mean by this is there is no room for God. In fact, today science is often referred to as “natural science” – natural in contrast to spiritual. God cannot be separated from science. He is the beginning of all things.
 Spurgeon said of this passage: “Thus we have God's works and God's word joined together: let no man put them asunder by a false idea that theology and science can by any possibility oppose each other.”
- d. The greatest power of the voice of God is seen in commanding life into sinners through the Gospel.
2 Corinthians 4:6 – “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”
2. David says, “the voice of the LORD is upon the waters.”
- a. Perhaps David penned this psalm after witnessing a terrible storm come in from off the Mediterranean.
- b. He describes the glory of God thundering upon the waters. The storms of lightening and thunder shout the glory of God.
- c. God's sovereign control over nature is infinitely powerful
Psalm 29:4 – “The voice of the LORD *is* powerful; the voice of the LORD *is* full of majesty.”
3. When the storms move inland the earth shakes at their power
Psalm 29:5 – “The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars; yea, the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon.”
- a. The trees were uprooted and moved like grass
- b. When Hurricane Katrina moved inland along the Mississippi Gulf Coast it carried with it indescribable destruction. Every uprooted tree, every destroyed home was by the powerful finger of God.
- c. Every bolt of lightning is sent by hand of God
Psalm 29:7 – “The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire.”
 Spurgeon – “As when sparks fly from the anvil by blows of a ponderous hammer, so the lightning attends the thundering strokes of Jehovah.”
4. **Verse 8** – as the storm continues into the wilderness of Kadesh the earth moves at the mighty hand of God.
5. **Verse 9** - The forests are stripped bare and the deer give birth prematurely – all by the mighty hand of God.

- B. And what is the result of seeing such power
1. We magnify God in His power
NAS **Psalm 29:9** – “And in His temple everything says, “Glory!”
 2. The witness of the mighty sovereign hand of God causes us to stand in awe and declare, “Glory.”
 This is what we saw in **Verse 1** – We all cry glory. We magnify His glory before all men.
Verse 10 – He forever stands as the King of glory.

III. **Verses 10-11** – David gives a benediction of God’s blessings upon His people.

- A. Here we find God as the King of the universe
1. Of course, it’s easy for us to see this pointing to Christ who alone is the Lord of lords and King of kings
 2. He is the Prince of peace.
- B. The Lord will give strength to His people
1. The picture is of the peace and still after the storm
 2. As we glorify Him we find strength in His majesty
 3. The more we know of Him the more confidence we have
 This is what we saw in Psalm 18
Psalm 18:2 – “The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.”
 4. As we proclaim His glory He appears all the more glorious
 Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;
 I will sing the glorious praises Of my God through all my days.
 Put no confidence in princes, Nor for help on man depend;
 He shall die, to dust returning, and his purposes shall end.
 5. He gives strength to “his people”
- C. He will bless His people with peace
1. Though the storms rage God’s people are at peace
 2. The One who demonstrates His power in the storm brings that power for the peace of His people. By the Word of His power He preserves us forevermore
 3. There is a great peace and comfort in Christ being with us
 - a. He has promised His abiding presence.
 - b. We are never alone.
Isaiah 43:2 – “When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”
Psalm 46:1-2 – “God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;”

Conclusion:

1. All of creation exists for the glory of God.
We exist to worship Him, to adore Him, to ascribe glory to Him who alone is holy.
2. This is our chief work – to glorify God with our lives – to be most satisfied in Him.
3. We must manifest this glory to the world. We must do it with all of our lives.
1 Corinthians 10:31 – “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”
4. May God grant us to shout “Glory” with all that we do.