

**I. God Alone Shall Have the Glory (v 1-2).****A.** The context**B.** God alone shall have the glory

- 1) Why is God alone to be given the glory?
  - a) Because of His attributes
  - b) Because of His acts
- 2) What are the temptations to give ourselves glory?
  - a) The perceived greatness of a man — His person (1 Sam 17:4) and personality (2 Cor 11:12-15)
  - b) The perceived greatness of a Church — Size or influence
  - c) The recognition of the folly of the wicked — Their foolishness or feebleness (Jsh 7:3-4)
- 3) The means God uses to reduce the glory of man
  - a) To expose the foolishness of a particular man (Jdg 6:11, 27)
  - b) To expose the foolishness of His people (Rev 2:9)
  - c) To permit the growing greatness of the wicked (Jdg 6:1-2)

**C.** Uses from the Point

- 1) We are pointed to the humiliation and exaltation of Christ (Lk 1:51-53)
- 2) We are to give God glory for all things, great and small
- 3) Let us not begrudge or envy God's kindness to others.
- 4) We are to not think less of ourselves, but to think of ourselves less.
- 5) A word of comfort to the godly but concerned.

**II. God Will Have Servants Who Are Willing to Serve Him (v 3).****A.** The first test (Dt 20:8; Jn 4:23; Jn 6:37, 63, 65)**B.** What doctrines ought we draw from this passage?

- 1) It is the tyranny of the wicked that imposes outward conformity and seeks to even burden the consciences of men (1 Sam 8:10-13, 16-18)
- 2) It is the grace of God in the Gospel that changes the heart and then conforms us to the likeness of Christ.
- 3) *Love does not insist on its own way* (1 Cor 11:5).
- 4) The tenderness of God to His children.
- 5) The shame of Israel.

**C.** Uses from the Text

- 1) We ought to fear and tremble for the right things (Phil 2:12-13)
- 2) We ought to serve God from a willing heart (Psa 100:2)

**III. God Will Have Servants Who Are Prepared for Battle (v 4-8)****A.** The Second Test**B.** What doctrines ought we draw from this passage?

- 1) If there is a dearth of good men, we should not be surprised to find so few great men.
- 2) The Lord would have His Church to be mature army, which is marked by readiness for battle. How should we be thus prepared?
  - a) Pray that God would prepare you to do His will, and that He would destroy His enemies (2 Cor 10:4)
  - b) Prepare for a good defense, never to retreat (Eph 6:13)
  - c) Anticipate objections (1 Pt 3:15)
  - d) Expect suffering (2 Tim 2:3)
  - e) Do your work dutifully, always having the Word of God always at the ready in your heart (Neh 4:15-18)
- 3) There are few who are truly prepared for battle.
- 4) The Lord gives the principle, but not the particulars (Psa 1:2; *Heidelberg Catechism* 127, What does the sixth petition mean? *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil* means: We are so weak that we cannot stand on our own for a moment, and our sworn enemies — the devil, the world, and our own flesh — never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not be defeated in this spiritual fight, but may firmly resist our enemies, until we finally win the complete victory.)
- 5) God confirms our faith, that we should be confirmed in our obedience.

**C.** Uses from the Text

- 1) Let us drink frequently from the waters of the Gospel.
- 2) Let us drink skillfully from the waters of the Gospel.
- 3) Let us not forsake our duties to the Lord and others.