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**THE POWER OF SCRIPTURE**  
**PSALM 19 PART # 11**  
**THE DIVINE DECREES PSALM 19:8B**  
**"OUR GLORIOUS GOD"**

Please open with me to Luke 9:28 on our way to our study of Psalm 19. I'd like you to join me for the ultimate mountain top experience. Being on top of a mountain with Jesus Christ at one of the most profound expressions that ever has occurred in scripture of the unleashed glory of God. The ultimate expression of God's glory comes in Jesus Christ and for just a moment while He was on earth Jesus Christ as it were pulled back the veil of His flesh and let His divinity, his fullness of the Godhead come out and it was awesome for those that witnessed it.

Come with me to the place Jesus let His Glory shine. Come to that hallowed spot that Peter couldn't shake the memory of. To his dying day he remembered that awesome sight. There on a lonely mountainside he saw God shining out of Christ. Yes, he had seen the miracles. Loaves multiplied, sick healed, **dead raised**. These were amazing. But nothing rivaled this. For just a moment they were bathed in an unearthly light. There was a warmth and wonder to it. So much so that Peter wanted to never leave that place. But there was also the sheer horror of **looking on the One they had eaten with traveled with and sailed with and slept with and watched Him teach when all of a sudden He catapulted himself beyond merely an amazing miracle working human to the incomprehensible, infinite, limitless God coming out of One he had spent so many days and nights with.**

John said it near the end of his life, we beheld His glory! Attending the TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST<sup>1</sup> was **an incredibly** memorable privilege. I'd like to read to you what a missionary from Australia wrote as he was preaching on this very text- he said this privilege was-

*"granted to only three disciples, our Lord's intimates, Peter and James and John; intimates not because of favoritism, (remember Jesus is not a respecter of persons) but because they more than the others were willing to pay the high price of following Him closely. Like them, we are each as close to the Lord as we really want to be."*

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<sup>1</sup> Sanders, THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST, P. 90-92.

You know a lot of people lament oh I wish I could understand the Book more and I wish I could love the Lord more and I wish I could do more for Him—do you know we all do what we really want to do. You think about it—we get basically other than a few distractions what we want in life. Those three wanted more than any thing else to be with Him and they were- they paid the price.

*"For those three it was an unforgettable experience.*

- *In reading John's record of it written half a century later, we can almost detect the awe in his words, Look at what happened and then we'll see what he said about it-verse 28: <sup>28</sup>Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, -that's when he said if you want to follow Me deny yourself – verses 23-25- after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. Isn't it interesting that a view of the holiness and awesome glory of God comes through prayer? That's a little reminder to us that as we come prayerfully before this Book and come to a quiet remote spot and turn our minds away from all the distractions that we can have a vision of His glory through His Word. You know I don't need to have some esoteric you know phantasmal you know hoop tee doo I get every thing I need right here cause you know Satan gives visions too and he is the deceiver and that's why we're to be tied to this Book and if you want a vision of the glory of Christ and if you want to see Him in His awesome radiance and wonder you don't need to go like Bishop Pike and have a trance in the Dead Sea you can just get on your knees today with this Book and say open my eyes let me see the wonders of Christ and God is very much wanting to show the wonders of Christ to us today. And so as they prayed verse 29 says: <sup>29</sup>As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. <sup>30</sup>And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup>who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; obviously this was ---- either it took all day and it was in the night or they had gone up there at night-- and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him. <sup>33</sup>Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: ooo- one of the problems the church has gotten into over the centuries- kind of putting every thing on the same level with Christ – the saints and the images and the liturgies and traditions and listen what happened- one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"--not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup>While he was saying this, a cloud came and*

overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" You don't need any Moses or Elijah tabernacles- you don't need a pantheon of saints- listen to Christ focus on Christ let nothing distract you let nothing of the mundane of the earth of the tradition of the temporal get away from the preeminence that Christ must be- because Jesus Christ is the radiance of the glory of God and the express image of God's person. Jesus Christ upholds all things by the word of His power. Jesus Christ when he had alone purged our sins sat down—listen to Him. <sup>36</sup>When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen. A half a century later the apostle John wrote about this very moment- he said "*We beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth.*" (John 1:14). See the glory of God reminds us of His grace, of his truth- in Christ.

- *Peter too records the indelible impression the experience made on him, "We ... were eyewitnesses of his majesty" (2 Peter 1:16). You know I always think about that with that hymn- "Majesty, worship His majesty" Peter says I was an eyewitness of His majesty and to the end of my earthly pilgrimage I could not shake it from my mind I saw the radiance of his glory. Most of us don't get that worked up about our Christianity because most of us haven't tarried in His presence and seen His glory. The passing years had only served to deepen their awe and wonder. It appears as though the evangelists vie with each other in their endeavor to convey the impression of the glory of the Lord on that occasion.*
- *Matthew records that "His raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow" (Mark 9:3; see also Matthew 17:2).*
- *Luke adds other elements: "The fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening" (Luke 9:29). The "form of God" shone through the form of a servant (Philippians 2:6).*

*These descriptions make it clear that the illumination was not merely external, as from a spotlight. The change came from within, first the countenance and then the garments, which had the translucent whiteness of pure light. Common to all records are the two features of dazzling whiteness and blazing light. The word "glistening" means to emit flashes of light. Combining the three descriptions, we have the purity of snow, the majesty of lightning, and the beneficence of light emanating from the person of the Lord. Small wonder that Peter wanted the experience perpetuated!"*

Well I'd like to kind a surprise all of you because usually as I found out from my children they said the best stuff you always save to the end- I thought I'd put it at the front so you get to eat the frosting before the cake ok? I'd like to just give you the application of this before we even study what Psalm 19 says because if we're here this morning and if Jesus Christ is the radiance of God's glory and if he offers Himself to us to reveal the very glory of God

- I. So we are here this morning to glorify God. How? What can we do personally that would please and magnify Him? Well I thought of just a few and you might want to write these down and before we actually get into the study of the glory of God I want to give you the application because maybe in this service you can do it. Maybe some of you haven't worshipped God in ages. Maybe some of you have never worshipped God- maybe that young lady that came in that someone led to Christ this morning if she didn't have to go home maybe she ended up staying and she can hear it- maybe she's in the overflow- I don't know. Maybe it's your first time to worship Christ- how do you do it? I'd like to give you a few of the Bible's suggestions of how we magnify God. I mean it's hard to believe-----it'd be kind of like me saying that an ant or one of those slugs that eats my flowers can magnify me you know I'm bigger and better than those things right- a little bit? Try and think of the greatest disparity you can think of in life between us and God is so much bigger- it's such a chasm and how can that ant do anything that would magnify me? In my estimation it can't but God says we can magnify Him and so if God wants me to do it- if He's asked me to do it- if he's offered me the opportunity I hope you'll avail yourself of the opportunity and you will by your life and with your mouth and heart and all that's within you say God I want to magnify You, adore You, worship and glorify Your name. Now that's where a lot of the Baptists, Presbyterians and the frozen and few Bible church people we just- I shall not be moved I will not get emotional- I will not get you know like those wild people that do all that you know I won't do that you know we're just going to stay put and you know what we do? We lose some of the awesomeness I mean I've seen good staunch frozen Baptists and Bible church people get out of their mind at football and basketball games. I've seen them break into tears at their children's graduations and recitals and weddings and I've seen them you know get ebullient and radiant and effervescent and every thing else but not at church. Well maybe we should and

I'm not proposing anything wild but I'm just saying this that we should magnify Him. How do we do that? First we should respond to His glory. How?

A. HALLOW HIS PRESENCE = It means that we ought to not just come lightly into the presence of God. That's why I teach our children it was a tremendous joy last night—I got in late and Bonnie said you ought to go and see they're ready for church. So I went walking around and looked and saw clothes set out, shoes set out; I saw Bibles and cases and everything- I mean they wanted to be ready because they're coming before God. You know it's interesting, some people get more ready for their aerobics class than they do to worship God. I mean they get ready for golf I mean they're looking at their stuff and polishing and getting all their things in the right spot and they wear these expensive outfits but when they come to church it's like man I didn't even know I was coming but I'm here. What a tragedy. Hallow His presence. Moses—look at Exodus 3:5-6: **Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, -don't come in a mundane, common, casual way before Me; come in hallowing My presence-- Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand [is] holy ground."** You know the hymn? "We are standing on holy ground"- have you ever thought about that? This building could be used for a gymnasium tomorrow- there's nothing essentially, innately, intrinsically holy about this building until you get here—until the saints come in. Then it's holy. This is the holy place of God right now. Have you taken off your earthly shoes? I don't mean what you're wearing right now. I mean have you set aside the earthly and hallowed the presence of God? You stop thinking about the time, the game, dinner, homework, where we're going--- you hallow Him-- **Moreover He said, "I [am] the God of your father -- the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."** **And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. (NKJV)** Now none of us have ever been on the mountain top, seen the blue pavement, God sitting on His throne, we've never eaten up on the mountain in front of God, our faces have never glowed so we had to cover them up, we have never seen God write with His finger on stone, we've never done any of that stuff before. But He did and it scared him and he hallowed the presence of God. Not only should we hallow His presence- that would magnify Him but we need to:

- B. FEAR HIS HOLINESS = Judges 13:21-22 **When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, (Samson's parents) then Manoah knew that He [was] the Angel of the LORD. And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!" (NKJV)** That's fearing the holiness of God- that's saying I know who I am, I know what I am, I know that I fall so far short of God's glory and you're so holy and I'm so unholy. You know fearing His holiness is what we're going to see in the next part of Psalm 19—the divine condition of fearing God. What we need to do to magnify God is fear His holiness; we need to be like Joseph. He was all alone, he was a red-blooded teenager or maybe a little older and a woman made a pass at him and no one would have ever found out I mean she was alluring and it was private and he says are you kidding- God's here. She said where? Which god? He said the living and true God is here and I'm in front of Him all the time and I wouldn't think of doing that in His presence. You know this morning if there's something you regret from your past- your dating life, your business life, your marriage life--- it was done when you were ignoring the presence of God because He's always been there whether you're saved or lost He's always been there and when we sin willfully we think we are closing the curtains and shutting the blinds and turning the lights out so He won't see and we are not fearing His holiness. Thirdly we need to:
- C. REPENT OF ALL SELF-SUFFICIENCY= This is what Job says after 41 chapters of decimation, of boils, sitting in ashes, children killed, separation from wife, losing all assets and friends castigating you and deriding you—this is what he learns: Job 42:5-6 **"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor [myself,] And repent in dust and ashes."** (NKJV) He says I hate my self sufficient, fleshliness which is such an affront to You because I see who You are and I don't want self-sufficiency I want spiritual endowment and enablement—I want You not me. How are we magnifying and glorifying God this morning? Repent of our self-sufficiency. Repent of our ability to do everything. It reminds me of Samson when he went out and shook his head and saw the Philistines coming and he ran out to get them and whap they got him and it says "he wist not that the Spirit of God had departed from him." I see a whole bunch of Christians

and they run out to face the devil and then they realize that the Spirit of God isn't ministering through them because they're doing it in their own strength. How many times have you and I done that? How often has God not been magnified. We need to repent of our self-sufficiency. We need to see God, we need to abhor our self-centeredness and repent in dust and ashes. Fourthly- we need to:

- D. **CONFESS ALL SINFULNESS** = We need to go through and do a spiritual house cleaning. This is what Isaiah said in Isaiah 6:5 **So I said: "Woe [is] me, for I am undone! – interesting word- I am disintegrating- Because I [am] a man of unclean lips,** -what we're talking about on Sunday nights right now- with the apostle Paul about speaking honestly he says I don't speak God's way-- **And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;** but what happened- **For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."** (NKJV) You know the best way to see ourselves properly is to look at the Lord. We get undone really fast. We get undone, we realize how our mouths, our minds, our hands, our lives don't bring Him glory as they should, as they could and we need to confess that. We need to agree with God and we need to realize His cleansing. Fifthly we need to:
- E. **BOW BEFORE HIS GLORY** = Here's another account of the Transfiguration in Matthew 17:6 **And when the disciples heard [it,] –that's when they heard God saying LOOK AT CHRIST- don't look at Elijah and Moses- don't get mixed up. Bow before His glory- when they heard that voice, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.** (NKJV) You know that's a common element. Have you ever noticed that? Moses fell on face before God. Get a little further- David fell on his face before God. Job we just saw fell on his face before God. Isaiah, Daniel- right down. John at the end of the Bible what does He do? Fall on his face when Christ comes before him- bowing before His glory. Now you remember what the children said in that parable about the discipline of the child where the teacher said you know go stand or sit or whatever in the corner and the child says I might be standing in the corner but I'm sitting down in my heart- I don't remember the story- I think it was about me when I was little- that's why I've forgotten it. But I do remember the gist of it that even though you're making me stand up I'm doing the opposite in my heart you know

this rebellion and hard-heartedness. This morning you might not be able to get down--- I mean you would be imperiled if you got down on your face right now- you might get trampled but in our hearts we can bow before His glory, I can bow before Him, I can prostrate myself, I can repent, I can confess, I can ask Him to strip away my self-sufficiency- bow before His glory. Sixthly we can

- F. **BELIEVE HIS WORD** = John 20:27 says another way we can magnify and glorify the Lord- **Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand [here,] and put [it] into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."** (NKJV) How did Thomas glorify and magnify the Lord? He believed His word. He said I believe- what a confession—my Lord and my God—you are who you said you are. Just believe His Word. As I talked to that young lady this morning I said well are your sins forgiven? She said I hope so. I mean she prayed alone and prayed with the nursery person and prayed with one of the deacons and she said I hope so. So I took her to the Word of God and said you know don't hope so- know so. Be sure. The Bible says it- if we confess He is faithful and just to forgive. As many as receive Him- He gives the power to be the sons of God. I says right here in Revelation 1:5 that He loved us and loosed us from our sins. Now I said did Christ loose you from your sins? She said yes. I said how do you know? The Bible says so. Believe His Word. Finally the last initial way that we can magnify, glorify, respond to the glory of God:

- G. **TALK ABOUT HIS MAJESTY** = Actually say, speak about His majesty- that's why you notice I always stand up here during the songs and I'm always looking around like this you know and what I'm looking for is how many are participating in the worship of God. I remember there used to be this woodsman that came to church when I pastored in Rhode Island. You got to know New England to know how comical this was. Most people had been coming to that church for generations I mean their grandparents and great grandparents and great, great, greats were all buried out back I mean it used to be a joy- they'd show these markers going back to Colonial times and they just--- I mean and that was their pew and they sat in that pew and this guy comes in and by the way they always wore these dark clothes and white shirts- I remember the first Sunday I wore a pastel colored shirt and one of the deacons came

up just----- you don't wear colored shirts you wear white shirts. I went I'm so sorry I didn't know that. I put all my white shirts in a box and wore all pastels from then on I was going to break it up in there. No more white shirts for me- I had about 40 of them and I put them away. I remember he came and my first Sunday there I was preaching along and all of a sudden after the service started the back door opened and I watched this guy--- you know I can talk and watch at the same time--- so I was preaching away and watching what was happening. He was wearing big boots, jeans- he had one of those great big knives and he flicked it out and was cleaning his fingernails watching us like this and then he put it back in—he was wearing this denim every thing and I mean tough looking guy and the usher came and held the door and went\_\_\_\_\_ go up stairs—he couldn't come to downstairs- he wasn't dressed you know he was wearing jeans and flannels and stuff and I remember he was big- he just pushed the doors open and knocked the usher down, went into the closet got the folding chair and went like that and popped it open and set it down in the back and just sat like this and kept cleaning his finger nails like this. And he became one of my best friends- still is. You know this guy was so tired of the New England compression of worship into wearing a dark suit and white shirt and sitting in the right place and smiling you know and not doing anything out of place that he just-----and you know one of his problems was he couldn't carry a tune at all I mean he had one of the most unmusical voices --- I mean he sounded like he was sick. You know he moved from sitting in the back to the very front row. And he would sit there and I didn't know whether he had you know appendicitis or what- he'd be going \_\_\_\_\_- you know what he was doing? He was so excited—that's now he did it in the woods I guess he just would be like that and when we'd sing he'd always have his face up and he'd be grimacing and I'm not prescribing that I'm not saying that's-----that's abnormal can you tell- I - one in a lifetime I've ever met- Woody Woodsman himself but you know what we don't do? We don't talk about His majesty. Listen to what Peter said: **2 Peter 1:17 For He (Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration) received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in**

whom I am well pleased." (NKJV)-- Peter was still talking about that till the end of his life- what he saw on the mountaintop with Christ. He couldn't shake it. Why? He saw His glory. Now I'll tell you what. I know the ones that have seen the glory of God because they can't stop talking about Him- it comes out. I mean when they pray, when they see you, when they're having the Word close by they just have to say oh can I share with you? I was reading this week I mean I see this constantly- people that they act like it's the first time it showed up in the Bible but actually it's been there all the time they just discovered it- God opened their heart to it and you know what? That joy of first discovery whether it's my children or my children in the faith or whether it's someone that's growing- their joy at discovering and seeing the glory of God it's such a joy but you know what the real joy is—now just that they found it but that they talk about it because God finally #7 God the Father the Son and the Spirit are magnified when I talk about His majesty. **SIDE ONE ENDED HERE AND SIDE TWO STARTED WITH THIS:** others when I talk about it to Him in prayer and when I in the corporate assembly of God's people with my own mouth magnify Him. Have you done that lately? I meet people they say oh you know I can't talk I don't- I'm you know I don't have the gift of talking you know--- they can talk about anything--you get them on the Dallas Cowboys- ohhhh ----- I can't talk about God. They haven't seen His glory cause you know what? You can't stop talking about it when you see His glory. Let's close by turning to Revelation 5- and when you find that, stand up with me. And we're going to actually practice, we're going to do it right now, ok?

⇒ Lets do it now! Open to Revelation 5:11-13 I'm going to read it to you and then I'm going to let you read it right where you are at your own speed and then we'll close. But I'd like to give you the opportunity--- for some of you it might be the first time in a long time or the first time ever and for some of you it might still be never you know I just don't do this but I'd like to give you the opportunity to collectively with your own mouth magnify God and some of you haven't participated in any songs this morning and some of you haven't participated in the chorus I mean you just like this is not my thing and I don't know what you guys are doing and I'm not going to be like that--- that's ok--- but we're not talking about a chorus right now we're talking about if you're redeemed what you're

going to do forever. Listen just listen right now- Rev. 5:11-  
<sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around  
the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the  
number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and  
thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>saying with a loud voice:

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
To receive power and riches and wisdom,  
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

<sup>13</sup>And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and  
under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in  
them, I heard saying:

"Blessing and honor and glory and power  
Be to Him who sits on the throne,  
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

<sup>14</sup>Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the  
twenty-four –24? God's people in the Old Testament- 12  
tribes, 12 patriarchal sons of Jacob and New Testament the  
new people of God 12 apostles- 24 the old and the new  
merged together as the people of God of all the ages-- And  
the twenty-four elders fell down –there it is again they're  
always doing that-- and worshiped Him who lives forever and  
ever.

How did they worship him? The said You receive power and  
riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and  
blessing!" and verse 13- "Blessing and honor and glory and  
power Be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb,  
forever and ever!" now we have about a minute and then I  
have to pray so we can get out on time but you know what?  
How about one minute invested for eternity--- right where  
you're standing why don't you just read that outloud- don't  
get too loud because you might bother your neighbor but why  
don't you just read 11, 12 and 13 and maybe just the parts  
that are the worship to the lord and just worship Him and you  
can close your eyes or you can do a Woody Woodsman you  
know what ever you want to do it---- I mean the Bible says  
what you're supposed to do is not draw attention to your self  
but to focus on the Lord just get you know all the attention on  
Him but just for a minute just in your own--- make your little  
spot where you're standing- make that a hallowed spot and it  
doesn't matter how old you are, it doesn't matter how new  
you are in the faith—you're spot you're standing on is  
hallowed ground. In your heart take your shoes off- detach  
from worldly things and then use your voice to magnify God.

Let's do that for about a minute out loud and then I'll close our time in prayer.

***Father it was such a joy to hear the sound of many voices as we're going to hear some day eternally. We're not worthy to be among them. We have sinned all of us grievously but our sin each one of us individually was laid upon Him who knew no sin. He bore our punishment, He became marred more than any human ever was because he became the horror of your wrath against sin oh Father. And I long for the day when this body of clay will be transformed into it's eternal habitation that for all eternity we might join the redeemed in giving eternal glory to You—all the creatures of the earth and of the Heavens and all the created order are right now worshipping You. You've said that they're declaring Your glory but You don't make us You ask us. May this morning You our glorious God- be our hearts focus. May we tarry on the mountaintop which is when ever we take our shoes off and focus on You. May we confess and turn from self sufficiency and may we hallow Your name and Your presence and with our own lips join in the chorus of eternity. How thankful we are that blessing and honor and glory and power is to You who sits on the throne and to You the Lamb forever and ever. We fall down and worship You this morning. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ we pray, AMEN.***

II. Back to Psalm 19. Where are we?

- A. HIS PERFECT LAW RESTORES (v. 7a) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE TEACHER: The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: God's truth that totally transforms, touching all of life, turning the whole person to God. SO THE WORD TEACHES . . .
- B. HIS SURE TESTIMONY MAKES WISE (v. 7b) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE WITNESS: 9 the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. God's testimony absolutely trustworthy making us skilled in the art of holy living. SO THE WORD TEACHES AND TESTIFIES . . .
- C. HIS RIGHT STATUTES REJOICES (v. 8a) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE DIRECTIONS: The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart. God's statutes giving directions to only secure place in the universe, causing great joy because we know what is absolutely right. SO THE WORD TEACHES AND TESTIFIES AND TURNS . . .
- D. HIS PURE COMMANDMENTS ENLIGHTENS (v. 8b) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE DECREES: the commandment

of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. God's commands giving a clear portrait of God's non-optional absolutes, without any flaw bringing light on every area. . SO THE WORD TEACHES AND TESTIFIES AND TURNS AND TIES US THE GOD.

John Calvin of Geneva who wrote over four centuries ago on this very verse: "In the end of the verse, the Psalmist teaches that *the commandment of God is pure, enlightening the eyes*. By this he gives us tacitly to understand that it is only in the commandments of God that we find the difference between good and evil laid down, and that it is in vain to seek it elsewhere, since whatever men devise of themselves is more filth and refuse, corrupting the purity of the life. He farther intimates that men, with all their acuteness, are blind, and always wander in darkness, until they turn their eyes to the light of heavenly doctrine. Whence it follows, that none are truly wise but those who take God for their conductor and guide, following the path which he point out to them, and who are diligently seeking after the peace which he offers and presents by his word.<sup>2</sup>"

Glory of God in Scriptures is described as:

- I. LIGHT THAT EMINATES FROM GOD. This light is as inescapable as the searing rays bursting from an exploding atomis blast, brighter than a supernova in the skies, brighter than the Sun in its strength.
  - A. IN EDEN GLORIOUS LIGHT FLOWED FROM GOD 1 Timothy 6:15-16 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen. (NKJV)
  - B. IN THE SINAI GLORIOUS LIGHT FLOWED FROM GOD Exodus 19:18-19 Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. 19 And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. (NKJV)
  - C. IN THE TABERNACLE GLORIOUS LIGHT FLOWED FROM GOD Exodus 40:34 Then the cloud covered the

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<sup>2</sup> Scroggie?

tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. (NKJV)

D. IN THE TEMPLE GLORIOUS LIGHT FLOWED FROM GOD 1 Kings 8:10-11 And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. (NKJV)

E. IN CHRIST GLORIOUS LIGHT FLOWED FROM GOD:

1. AT HIS BIRTH GLORIOUS LIGHT FLOWED FROM GOD John 1:14 And the Word became 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. (NKJV)

2. AT HIS BAPTISM GLORIOUS LIGHT FLOWED FROM GOD Matthew 3:16-17 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (NKJV)

3. THROUGHOUT HIS MINISTRY GLORIOUS LIGHT FLOWED FROM GOD 2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (NKJV);

4. AT HIS TRANSFIGURATION GLORIOUS LIGHT FLOWED FROM GOD Matthew 17:2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. (NKJV)

5. AT THE CROSS AND EMPTY TOMB GLORIOUS LIGHT FLOWED FROM GOD 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 at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (NKJV)

6. NOW IN HEAVEN GLORIOUS LIGHT FLOWED FROM GOD Revelation 1:15-16 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand

seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (NKJV)

II. TRUTH THAT EMINATES FROM THE CREATED UNIVERSE.

Pulsating in different ways from the heavenly bodies out in space, down to the least known creature on earth, each reveals and displays the glory of their Creator. 1 Corinthians 15:39-41

III. GLORY THAT EMINATE FROM THE REDEEMED. This is the praise of God's people. This is the testimony of the saints. This is the purpose of the church and each member of the body of Christ. God isn't sending out the heavenly hosts to put on a cosmic sound and light show this Christmas. He has you and me instead. What are some ways we can glorify and magnify God?

1. BY AGREEING WITH GOD ABOUT OUR SINS (Joshua 7:19 Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." (NKJV))
2. BY PERSONALLY PRAISING GOD (Psalm 50:23 Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God." (NKJV)).
3. BY INCLUDING THE LORD IN EVERY PART OF YOUR LIFE! Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (NKJV);
4. BY SEEKING THE LORD ABOVE ALL ELSE IN YOUR LIFE! Matthew 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. (NKJV).
5. BY CONSTANTLY PRAYING John 14:13 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (NKJV)
6. BY ABUNDANTLY BEARING FRUIT John 15:8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. (NKJV))
7. BY GRATEFULLY THANKING HIM FOR EVERYTHING! Romans 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (NKJV); 1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (NKJV). This is another great

test of life. If you can't say aloud with sincerity:  
"Thank you dear Father in Heaven for that

- date I just returned from,
  - movie I just watched,
  - outing I just participated in,
  - TV show I just opened your holy dwelling place to [your mind is where He lives remember!],
  - video game I was just mesmerized by,
  - book I just read,
  - magazine I just looked at, purchased or read
  - sporting activity I just invested one, two or three hours of the most precious commodity in the world my time! And so on!
8. BY HUMBLY REFUSING TO TAKE ANY OF HIS GLORY FOR YOURSELF. Again, the damned are characterized in
- Romans 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (NKJV);
  - James 4:6-10 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. (NKJV);
  - 1 Peter 5:5-6 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, (NKJV).
9. BY COMPLETELY TRUSTING GOD Romans 4:20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, (NKJV))
10. BY DEDICATING EVERY ACTIVITY OF LIFE TO HIM. 1 Corinthians 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

(NKJV). This is one of the acid tests for a spirit led believer. Can you really and honestly say as you start out on anything, "Lord God my Creator and Redeemer, I now utterly dedicate to you my -

- expenditure of money on this item [since its your money]
- body as I take it to this place, my presence and activities I dedicate to your glorious holiness. [*See why the older you get in Christian maturity, the less freedoms you take! There is a consuming passion that grows to be found in Him unspotted by the world James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. (NKJV)*]

11. BY CONSISTENTLY ENDURING SUFFERING 1 Peter 4:14-16 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. (NKJV))

12. BY JOINING THE TEAM EXEMPLIFIED BY:

- a) DAVID, Psalm 57:5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Your glory be above all the earth. (NKJV);
- b) THE MULTITUDE, Matthew 9:8 Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men. (NKJV); 15:31;
- c) THE VIRGIN MARY, Luke 1:46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, (NKJV)
- d) THE ANGELS, Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (NKJV)
- e) THE SHEPHERDS, Luke 2:20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. (NKJV)
- f) BY JESUS, John 17:4 "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. (NKJV)

- g) THE MAN SICK OF THE PALSYP, Luke 5:25  
Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. (NKJV) as well as: the woman with infirmity, Luke 13:13; the leper whom Jesus healed, Luke 17:15; the blind man, Luke 18:43;
- h) THE CENTURION, Luke 23:47 So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!" (NKJV)
- i) THE CHURCH AT JERUSALEM, Acts 11:18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life." (NKJV)
- j) THE GENTILES AT ANTIOCH, Acts 13:48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. (NKJV)
- k) ABRAHAM, Romans 4:20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, (NKJV);
- l) PAUL, Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. (NKJV)