

Sunday Morning Message

January 5, 2020

Vision Sunday 2020

All to the Glory of God

1 Corinthians 10

Congregational Reading – 1 Corinthians 10:27 – 31; Theme Verse 1 Corinthians 10:31

Introduction

Today is the first Sunday of 2020 and we will begin the year by introducing our new theme: ***“All to the Glory of God.”*** The way I see it, each of us as Christians has two overall purposes for living here on the earth. We are to fulfill the Great Commission by communicating to our world the truth of the gospel of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection for the sins of the world. In short, we are to tell people how they can be saved. Secondly, we are to live lives upon the earth that glorify God:

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

According to this verse, we are to glorify God in all things. The word glory comes from the Greek word δόξα (*doxa*), which is where we get the word doxology, which literally is mean “an expression of glory or praise.” The word “glory” (*doxa*) has to do with God’s splendor or brightness, as in light; it metaphorically speaks specifically of God’s majesty; of His magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, and grace.

Our theme verse teaches us that anything we do should be a reflection of God’s glory; an expression of His magnificence, excellence, and preeminence. In short, with everything that we do and with every word that we say, we are to glorify God; to make God look God. God is good, and we are to reveal God as good to the world around us.

Similar passages:

“And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” (Colossians 3:14-17)

“Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 15:5-6)

“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? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Back to the Text

The specific context of 1 Corinthians 10 has to do with idolatry. In first century Corinth, and throughout the entire Roman Empire, there was a lot of idolatry, or worshipping of gods other than the Lord Jesus Christ. The Greek and Roman culture was replete with many gods, which were typically represented by little statues made of wood or metal that the people would set up in their homes or in their yard, and they would worship them and pray to them.

In Corinth specifically, there was the *Acrocorinth*, which was a nearly 2000 feet high temple to Aphrodite, the goddess of love or really sex. The Roman name for Aphrodite was Venus. Associated with the worship of Venus were 1,000 “priestesses” which were really prostitutes.

Worship of Aphrodite was not limited to the temple; it was seen in every area of Corinthian culture as we will see in this passage. The meat that was sold in the markets in Corinth was sacrificed to Aphrodite, so when you went to the butcher shop in Corinth you were typically purchasing meat that had been part of a religious ceremony dedicated to an idol, or false god.

Read through and briefly comment on the passage:

- I. Learn from the Past (vs. 1 – 13)
- II. Live Biblically in the Present (vs. 14 – 30)

See also 1 Corinthians 8:4 – 13 concerning being a stumblingblock.

- III. The Overriding Principle (vs. 31 – 33)

The “therefore” in verse 31 indicates that Paul is making his concluding thought. In other words, based upon all that he said in verses 1 – 30, Paul now instructs the Corinthians, and us, to do everything, including eating and drinking, to the glory of God. Everything that we do; everything that we say, both individually and as a church, should bring honor and glory to God. Everything that we do should shine a bright light upon the Lord Jesus Christ and glorify Him to the lost world around us.

Notice also that if we are glorifying God, we will be very careful not to offend people, whenever it is possible.

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." (Romans 12:17-18)

Sometimes just what you believe will be offensive to people, but we should be very careful not be unnecessarily offend people.

This does not mean that we elevate pleasing people over pleasing God, but it does mean that we strive to put the needs of others over our own needs.

Why – because we want to see them saved, which brings us back to the Great Commission. We do what we do to make God look good, and to see people saved.

Conclusion

In 2020, we want to do all things to the glory of God; we want to glorify God in everything that we do and in every word that we say.

We are on a mission in 2020. We are ambassadors for the Lord Jesus Christ. An ambassador's job is to represent his home nation. Our citizenship is in Heaven. We represent God. Our desire is to represent Him well, to glorify Him this year with our lives.

How are we going to do that?

1. Learn His Heart

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matthew 11:29)

Communicate with Him daily through prayer and the reading of His Word (plug the blog – Making a Difference).

Come to His house whenever the doors are open.

Commune with His people.

2. Live His Truth

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."
(Colossians 3:16)*

Yield to the Will of God

"Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." (Luke 22:42)

Be filled with the Spirit of God

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;" (Ephesians 5:18)

3. Love the people He Loves

God loves people – both saved people and lost people – He loves all people.

If you truly love people, you will sacrifice your will and live His truth. You will care more about who God loves than you care about pleasing yourself.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:16-17)

*"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
(Romans 5:8)*

God will be glorified in 2020 if we love lost people by telling them about Jesus.

In 2020, it can't be about us. It has to be all about God. *"All Things to the Glory of God."*