

LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY

PROGRAM 12 (#912127)

WEEK 3 (#912327)

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SERIES: Living For God's Glory

TITLE: Program 12 – Ordinary Or Special?

TUESDAY

OPEN

When you think of holy Christians, when you think of people that are really so Christ-like, do you always think of someone else? Do you think that's because they're special? That's because God has given them an extra blessing? O Precious One, if you are thinking that way, you are stunting the glory of God in you because God intends for you to be a special Christian.

PART ONE

Glorifying God; what does it look like? And how is it achieved? This is what we want to see this week. Now we are using as our springboard John chapter 17, where Jesus on His way to the Garden of Gethsemane stops and prays to the Father. This really is what we would call the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer, like we say it in church, is a way to pray. But this is Jesus talking to the Father asking the Father to glorify Him, to give Him the glory that He had when He was with His Father before Him. This is the passage where He says, ["Father, I have glorified you on earth. I have finished the work that

you gave me to do.”] (PARAPHRASE, John 17:4) I want us to look at it because I want you to see that as Christ was in this world, so you and I are to be in this world. As Christ had a mission, so you and I have a mission. And that mission is really, truly to glorify God by finishing the work that He gives us to do. But let’s go to John chapter 17. In John chapter 17, the word “glory” is used right at the beginning of the chapter. And it’s used near the end of the chapter. He starts off His prayer to the Father for Himself, and for those 11 disciples, and for those that are going to believe on Him through His name which is all about you and about me. And then He talks again about the glory of God. And since we are in John 17, I just want you to mark it. Remember where we are putting a purple cloud around “glory” and we are coloring it yellow. And let me just say this, if you are new to the program, you need to go to our website. You need to go to [“preceptsforlife.com,”](http://preceptsforlife.com) and there you will find all sorts of things to help you. But also you can get a free study guide. You know, this is a study that you could do with people at work. You could do this in a Sunday school class. You could do it in a small group Bible study, because we want you not only to discover truth and not only to go deeper in that truth, but we want you to disciple others. And discipling others is teaching them to observe all things that He’s commanded us. So let’s look at it, John chapter 17, verse 5. He says, **“Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.”** (John 17:5-6) He comes down and He says in verse 9, **“I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those [who] You have given Me; for they are Yours; and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified...,”** now listen, **“...in them.”** (John 17:9-10) In other words, what is He telling those 11 as He gets ready to leave? He’s letting them hear Him, tell the Father [You know Father I have

been glorified in them. They are growing. They are becoming more like their Master. More like their teacher. I have been glorified in them.]

(PARAPHRASE, John 17:10) And He says, **“I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world...I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are.”** (John 17: 11) He wants a oneness. He wants a unity. Now I want you to remember that because if we don't preserve that oneness, if we don't preserve that unity then we really aren't glorifying God. If we are a Christian that are at odds with other Christians, if we are kind of fighting and bickering, or a church is splitting apart because of the color of the carpet. Or because of some other thing that one group wants and the other group doesn't want and they think it's their church. Hey, it's not their church! It's God's church. And we if we are to glorify God, then we must behave as Jesus behaved. We must look at His example with His disciples. We must look then at what He says about how the disciples are going to be when He leaves and there must be this oneness. He says, **“While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition...,”** And He is talking about Judas, **“...that the Scripture [might] be fulfilled.”** He says, **“But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world....”** I'm speaking down here, I'm praying this prayer, **“...so that they [can hear that they] may have My joy made full in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”** (John 17:12-14) What you and I have to realize is that when we glorify God on earth, there are going to be those who hate us. There are going to be those that don't want any part of us. And so many times when we find people hating us or not liking us we think, “I've blown it. I've just blown it. I just might as well give up. I can't do God's work because they hate me.” The world is not going to love you. The world is going to hate you because you

are glorifying Him. And the way that you are living is, in a sense, condemning them because they could live like you're living. They could live like God intended man to live, but they've chosen not to. They've chosen to walk in the flesh. They've chosen not to believe in Jesus. They've chosen to reject Him, and walk their own way. Now He already told them this in John chapter 15 that the world is going to hate them because the world hated Him and we're not greater than Him. (See John 15:18) But He says and then He goes on to say, **"I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one."** (John 17:15) Now I mark every reference to the "devil," who is the "evil one" with a red pitchfork, just in case you want to do this. He says, **"They are not of the world, even as I'm not of the world. Sanctify them in [Thy] truth...."** Set them apart and consecrate them, **"...Your word is truth."** (John 17:16-17) We are going to see the importance of the Word of God, which in turn enables us to glorify God. He says, verse 20, **"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those...who believe in Me through their [work]...."** (John 17:20) So that's gone from generation to generation to generation to generation to you. Through me to you all the way from Jesus Christ, and He says, **"...that they may...be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they...may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me...,**" now catch this I love it, **"...[the glory which You have given me] I have given to them...."** (John 17:21-22) You and I can glorify God because the glory that was given to Jesus was given to you was given to me. Not just to the 11 apostles and then the new one that is chosen, which I happen to believe is Paul. Not just to them, but to us who have believed on His name through those that have gone before us. He has given You His glory. And so He says, **"The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one."** (John 17:22) And dropping down to verse 24, **"Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am...."**

Oh, where is He going to be? He is going to be in Heaven. Why does He want us in Heaven with Him? Well, one of the reasons is so, **“...that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.” (John 17:24)** You have been loved and chosen before the foundation of the world. (See Ephesians 1:4) Go to Ephesians chapter 1, Ephesians chapter 1. And this is so awesome it ought to make you feel so absolutely, absolutely special. Listen to this verse, Ephesians chapter 1 verse 3, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus...who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in...heavenly places in Christ, just as...,”** verse 4, **“...He chose us [God chose us] in Him [in Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we [should] be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through [Christ Jesus]...Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.”** Here comes glory now, **“To the praise of the glory of His grace....” (Ephesians 1:3-6)** You are to the praise of the glory of the grace of God, Precious One. In other words, the fact that you have been saved, the fact that you have been united to Christ, the fact that Christ is in you and You are in Jesus, and the fact that God has a work for you to do that is to the praise of His glory and it involves you. No super Christians. Every Christian, every Christian. We'll talk more about it and the why and how in just a moment.

PART TWO

Glorifying God on earth, isn't that exciting to know that my life can have purpose? It doesn't matter who I am. It doesn't matter what I came from. It doesn't matter my past. It doesn't matter how wonderful it was or how sullied and dirty and how abused it was, God saved you. He saved You. He chose you before the foundation of the world. (See Ephesians 1:4) When it pleased Him as Galatians 1 says, [He revealed His son in you.] (PARAPHRASE, Galatians 1:16) You had been given to God and been

given to Jesus Christ. You are a gift to Jesus as a satisfaction. In a sense, He sees the travail of His soul when you get saved, and He is satisfied. You then are to be able to say then as Jesus said in John 17:4, “I glorified You on...earth, having accomplished the work [that] You have given me to do. (John 17:4) We looked at Ephesians chapter 1. Now what I want us to do is, I want us to go to our Bibles and I want us to look at Ephesians chapter 2, Ephesians chapter 2. And I want to pick up a couple of verses to just show you what God has done for you. Alright, Ephesians 2, in verse 1 He says, **“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit...now working in the sons of disobedience.”** (Ephesians 2:1-2) Remember I told you before the break that I mark every reference to the “devil” or any of his “evil spirits” with a red pitchfork. So when it talks about the prince of this world, it’s talking about the devil when it says, **“....the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”** (Ephesians 2:2) it’s talking about the evil one. It’s talking about the devil. And he says, “This is what you were formerly.” And he says, **“Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh...,”** remember the flesh saying gimme, gimme, gimme, **“...[and indulging the desires of the flesh] and of the mind....”** (Ephesians 2:3) What the mind thinks about, what the mind contemplates. And so you were indulging the desires of your mind. You contemplated sexual things. You contemplated murder. You contemplated, you know, whatever. And it says, **“...[You] were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, [He] made us alive together with Christ...,”** and then he says, **“...(by grace you have been saved.)”** (Ephesians 2:3-5) Now drop down to verse 8. **“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves....”** That faith is not even something that you

conjured up. **“...it is a gift of God; [it is] not as a result of [your] works, so that no one may boast.”** And then he says this, **“For we [you me] are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus....”** And this is before the foundation of the world, **“...[unto] good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we [should] walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:8-10)** You, Precious One, are precious to God. You are very much an individual. God doesn't look at you and rate you on a level of 1 through 10 as far as whether you are His favorite or as far as He wants to bestow things on you. No, God looks at you, and God has a unique calling on your life. He has a unique purpose. And He wants to take you with your personality, with your past, with your genealogy so to speak, who your mom was, who your dad was and all of that, and God wants to use you for His glory. And this is why many of us go through all sorts of different trials because God lets us go through those things because what He wants to do is He wants to show His glory. He wants to show what He can do in His creation. So this is the foundation now of glorifying God. You've been chosen by God. You've been given to Jesus Christ. You are part of the family of God. You are one with the others. And God has a work for you to do, and you need to do it. The next thing I want you to see is how does this happen? How does this happen? How do I accomplish this? Well, number one it happens as you behold His glory. So I want you to write down “2 Corinthians chapter 3 verse 18”. We've looked at it before, but we are really are going to look at it now again because I want you to know where it is and I want you to get the impact of it, 2 Corinthians chapter 3. He is talking about they have been made adequate if you will look at verse 6, **“...[He] made us adequate as servants of a new covenant.... (2 Corinthians 3:6)** The new covenant is the covenant in Jesus' blood. The new covenant is that Jesus died for your sins. That He has thus given you forgiveness of sins, and in turn now you are to live for Him. He is talking about your part of the salvation. So you've come away from the old covenant which was the law, which was works, works, works, works. And

now you've come to the new covenant which is faith, faith, faith, faith. And so [you are justified by faith.] (PARAPHRASE, Romans 3:28) [You are saved by grace through faith not by works.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 2:8) So when that happens a veil comes off your eyes, and you now see that salvation is by faith and not by works. And it says in verse 18, **"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord...."** (2 Corinthians 3:18) The new covenant introduces us to Jesus who becomes flesh and blood for us. When He becomes flesh and blood for us God gives us an account of His life. He gives us all the prophecies in the Old Testament that tells us where He's going to be born, what He's going to be like, etc., what He is going to do in His first coming and in His second coming. But then in the gospels we actually see we understand His birth, we understand His life, how He grew **"...in wisdom and [in] stature, and in favor with God and [man.]"** (Luke 2:52) And we behold His life. We behold His glory, the glory that the Father gave Him. We behold man as God intended man to be, before man sinned. And we see all of that, and as we behold His glory, it's like looking at it in a mirror. We are in the Word of God. We are looking at the Word of God. We are seeing what Jesus is like and it says, **"...[Then we] are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."** (2 Corinthians 3:18) Do you know why a lot of Christians really are not glorifying God, and are not becoming more Christ-like? It's because they are too busy to study the Word of God. It's because they have time to read Christian novels and Christian commentaries and everything, but they are not spending time in the Word of God. And Jesus said, that [His Words are spirit, and they are life.] (PARAPHRASE, John 6:63) Hebrew tells us that [they discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.] (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 4:12) And they are the ones that transform us. So as you are in the Word of God then more and more you know how to glorify God. We'll talk about it more in the next program.