

**LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY**

**PROGRAM 13 (#912128)**

**WEEK 3 (#912327)**

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## ***PRECEPTS FOR LIFE***

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**SERIES: Living For God's Glory**

**TITLE: Program 13 – Transparent Glory**

### **WEDNESDAY**

#### **OPEN**

You know, we live in a time when we are just star crazy. I mean if we find anybody that's been on television, that's been on radio or that we have seen all over "YouTube" somehow we think if we can connect with them that that makes us more important. We really are worshipers of men. And I want you to know that God does not like that. We are to worship Him alone. We'll talk about that today.

#### **PART ONE**

If you, like Jesus, want to glorify God on earth, there are five precepts, five insights that I want to give you that are absolutely crucial if your desire is to glorify God. This is so important. The first one I've already given you. If you're going to glorify God, then you have to be changed into Jesus' image. You have to become more and more like Jesus. So number one is you have to be a man or woman of the Word of God. Now I just finished reading a book, a book about a man in China and how they didn't have the Word of

God. And how they would just meet and everyone would share their little tidbits of Scripture. And yet God would reveal Himself to them. You and I live in a country that has access to the Word of God. And I can tell you that those people in China would have given anything and everything, and some did, in order to get a hold of a copy of God's Word. So this is where it begins. We behold as in an image, the glory of God. (See 2 Corinthians 3:18) We look at the true estimate of Him. Remember, glory is the accurate estimate of who God is, understanding Him, understanding its worth, its value, its weight. And so when I come to the Word of God, I'm coming so that I can know Him, so that I can understand Him. And then I'm changed from glory to glory as I get this truth and as I live in the light of it. (See 2 Corinthians 3:18) But the second precept for life that I want to give you is that you don't seek your glory. Because there is a temptation, now remember, we deal with the enemy. We no longer belong to him, but he is aggressively trying to incapacitate us. He's trying to lure us. He's trying to get us back into sin. He's trying to make us ineffective because we are becoming what he never wanted us to become and that is in the image of God. Remember God is the enemy of the devil. And so what the devil wants to do is he wants to trip us up. And one of the ways that he will trip us up is he will give us notoriety. He will give us fame. He will begin to promote us. This is why in Timothy, Paul says to Timothy, [Don't you lay your hand suddenly on a new believer lest he is raised up in his pride and becomes prideful and then God has to deal with him. God has to chasten him rather than bless him because he's walking in pride, and pride does not belong in the life of a Christian.] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Timothy 5:22) So let's look at what God says. I want us to go back to Isaiah chapter 42. In Isaiah chapter 42, in verse 5, he says, **"Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to [its] people...and spirit to those who walk in it."** (Isaiah 42:5) In other words, there's a human being only on this

earth because God has given him breath. God has given him spirit. God has raised him up. He says, **“I am the LORD....” (Isaiah 42:6)** And then we have like a prophecy, a prophecy that points to Jesus. He says, **“...I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You...I will appoint You as a covenant to the people[s], as a light to the nations, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison.” (Isaiah 42:6-7)** It’s a prophecy that is pointing to Messiah that is pointing to Jesus Christ, who’s going to rescue people, take them away from the devil, take them out of darkness, take them out of prison, take them out of blindness and take them into the kingdom of God. And so he says, **“I am the LORD, [and] that is My name....” (Isaiah 42:8)** And this word for Lord is “Yehovah.” It is the most holy name for God. It means, “I am the self-existent One.” It, He is the “I Am.” When Moses said, [“Who shall I say sent me?” And He says, “I am. I am, that’s My memorial name to all generations.] (PARAPHRASE, Exodus 3:13-15) I am everything and anything that you will ever need. **“I am the LORD, that is My name....” (Isaiah 42:8)** And then He says this, **“...I will not give My glory to another....” (Isaiah 42:8)** I will not give My glory to another. So you want to mark “glory.” You say, “But you have said, ‘guard your glory.’” When I say, “guard your glory,” when it says in, as we saw in Psalm 106, as we saw in Jeremiah chapter 2, they exchange **“...their glory for that which does not profit.” (Jeremiah 2:11)** **“...They exchanged their glory for the image of an ox that eats grass.” (Psalms 106:20)** Our glory is God, but it is God that gives us glory. And so He is our glory. And when we turn and worship someone else, including ourselves, then we are not glorifying God. I wanted us to understand that if I am guarding His glory, if I am protecting who He is not in the sense that it will change Him, but if I am honoring Him for who He is, if I am living accordingly, then I am guarding His glory and I am guarding my glory because my glory is really God. So watch what He says, **“...I will not give**

**My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images.” (Isaiah 42:8)**

“I’m not gonna have any of those idols. Horoscopes are out; worshipping the sun, the moon, the stars, the statues, the Buddhas, all of this; hey, I will not give My glory to images.” That’s an image that has eyes that cannot see, has ears that cannot hear, has feet that cannot move. (See Psalms 135:15-17) It’s something that people bow down to after they’ve carved it with their own hands, even like the gold calf that Aaron made. (See Exodus 32:4) So I want us to see: You are not to seek your glory. Now watch this, John chapter 8. Watch who is speaking, watch what is being said in John chapter 8. Jesus is speaking. He’s speaking to the Pharisees. And He says, “...**‘I do not have a demon...;’**” they’ve accused Him of having a demon, “...**but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.’**” (John 8:49) If we’re honoring God, we’re glorifying God. And Jesus is saying right now, “Look, I am honoring My Father.” And it’s almost as if He’s standing up and looking at them and leaning over and saying, [“Don’t accuse Me of having a demon. I am honoring My Father. And you know what? You’re dishonoring Me. You’re not honoring Me properly because God is My Father.”] (PARAPHRASE, John 8:49) But now watch what He says, “...**I do not seek My glory; there is One who seek and judges.’**” (John 8:50) I do not seek my glory. Now watch: I’m not going to live independently of God. I’m not going to say, “Hey you forget that He’s the Father. You put Me in His place.” Because 1 Corinthians tell us this, Precious One, 1 Corinthians 15 tells us that someday even the [Son will deliver up the kingdom to the Father so that He can be all in all.] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Corinthians 15:28) He is all in all. God will not share His glory with anyone. Well you say, “Then why does He share His glory with Jesus?” Because He and the Father are one! So just remember this, when we have all this adulation for these people, you know, you just look. I think about when young girls, I’m talking about girls that haven’t even reached puberty yet, and here they are dressing, in a sense, like little harlots. Oh, that we would want to be like God! That we would want to dress

for Him! That we would want to talk for Him! That we would want to love for Him! That we would want to be merciful for Him, and compassionate for Him, and courageous for Him, and strong for Him! You know, we have been, in our family, through horrendous, horrendous trials. And it has been my desire in all of this to manifest who Jesus Christ is and who God is and to let everybody know I'm not gonna fall apart, because God is sovereign. God, for some reason, has filtered this through His fingers of love. God, for some reason, has allowed this to happen. And part of that reason is because He has a work to do in me. And I want to glorify Him. So Jesus says this, **“...I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges.**

**Truly...I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death.’** [And] **the Jews [says] ‘Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died...the prophets also; and You say, “If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste...death.” Surely [You’re] not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died [also, who] do [you] You make Yourself out to be?’** [And] **Jesus answered, ‘If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing....’” (John 8:50-54)** Have you got that? There's more to hear, but I want you to understand if you glorify yourself, you have nothing to glory in.

## **PART TWO**

Thank you for coming back. Thank you so much for studying. Thank you so much for longing, longing to glorify God in your body. Thank you that you want to guard His glory. Thank you for wanting to understand how you can glorify Him on earth and finish the work that He's given you to do. Now remember, I'm showing you five things, five things; we're on the second one, and the second one is this: You do not seek your glory. If you're gonna glorify God on earth, number one: you have to be in the Word so you're changed from glory to glory, (See 2 Corinthians 3:18) so that you understand who God is, so that you can live accordingly. The second thing is that you

do not seek your own glory. You see there's always the evil one to tempt us and to try to get us in a sense to stop the praise with us, not take it and give it to the Father. I don't know if you ever read or ever saw the movie, "The Hiding Place." I don't know if you ever read any of Corrie ten Boom's writings, but they were marvelous, absolutely marvelous! She was a single woman, a big Dutch woman. And she and her sister were raised by their godly father. And they hid Jews in Holland during World War II. And consequently, they were caught and they were put in prison. Her sister, Betsy, was so mistreated. And, and Betsy died in prison. And through a fluke, and the sovereignty of God, Corrie was released from prison. After she, in a sense, got free from prison and everything and she began talking to people, God began to open doors. And Corrie ten Boom became famous. I mean they made a movie, "The Hiding Place," and, and my friend played Corrie ten Boom in it. People would flock to hear her. She was on Billy Graham. I never had the privilege of meeting her. I was a fairly new Christian, and I never saw her face to face. But I saw videos of her, and I read about her. And this is one of the things that someone asked her. "Miss ten Boom, you get so much praise! People are constantly telling you how they admire you, how they love you, how impressed they are with you. What do you do?" She says, "God taught me to take the compliment like a flower. And then at night when I go to bed, I say, 'Father here's the bouquet of praise for You. It belongs to You. It doesn't belong to me.'" God and God alone is to get the glory. So Jesus says in John, "...**If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, "He is our God."**" (John 8:54) Jesus looked at them and knew that although they were religious, God was not really their Father, because all they wanted was the glory themselves. And listen: If you're going to glorify God, you don't keep any glory for yourself. Well I want us to go to Galatians chapter 1, verse 10. And this is a verse that I would suggest that you learn. I remember when our ministry first started here in Chattanooga— and we

have a 32 acre piece of property. And God sent some young women, college-age women. One of them was Evelyn Wheeler. And Evelyn Wheeler became the first woman, so to speak, student president at Berry College. It was a very heady experience. And I was discipling her, and she had just come to know Jesus Christ. And I said, “Evelyn, you’ve got to memorize this verse, and it’s Galatians 1:10. **“For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.” (Galatians 1:10)** In other words, you don’t seek the glory, the approval, the approbation of men. If you can remember this, and I can’t remember who it was, but it was a writer who writes for NavPress, and this is what she said: God has taught me to have an audience of One. The audience of One is God, who we are to glorify here on earth. You don’t seek your glory. And listen, you don’t seek the glory of men. Now in a sense, in a sense that seems the same. But when I’m seeking my glory, it means I want it all for me. Then there is the temptation to seek the glory of men, to seek the approbation of men. So I want you to go to John chapter 5, John chapter 5. And let’s look at it in verse 41. And He says, **“I do not receive glory from men; but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves.” (John 5:41-42)** Here was a group of men that didn’t like Jesus because Jesus was not bowing to them, so to speak, and kissing their feet and doing everything the way that they wanted him to do. He didn’t conform to their image of what a man ought to be— a religious leader ought to be. And so He’s letting them know, He’s saying **“I [don’t] receive glory [of] men; [and] I know you, that you [don’t] have the love of God in yourselves. I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, [you’ll] receive him.” (John 5:41-43)** I’ve come in the name of God Almighty, and you won’t receive Me. If somebody shows up in the name of some other guy, you’re gonna receive him. **“How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and...do not seek the glory that is**

**from the one and only God?” (John 5:44)** You know, there is a great temptation. And I have battled this temptation. I mean battled it because as I grew up, I went to so many high schools, and I never had close friends. And I always had to, you know, search for friends 'cause like six months before I graduated from high school I moved from New York to Ohio! And it was hard! And you want to be loved, and you want to be accepted, and you want to be popular. At least you want somebody to know you exist and that you are there. And this is the way kids get tied in with the wrong group of kids: because they're seeking glory, they're seeking significance from another person. And we're not to seek significance from another person. He says, **“...[If] when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?” (John 5:44)** You have to be so careful, Beloved, because it's seeking the glory of men, the approbation, the approval of men, that in turn causes us then to compromise Jesus Christ. And you don't want to compromise Jesus Christ. You don't want to compromise your standards. But the minute that you begin to seek the glory of men, this is what you do. Do you want to glorify God? Get your glory only from Him.