

LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY

PROGRAM 3 (#912118)

WEEK 1 (#912325)

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SERIES: Living For God's Glory

TITLE: Program 3 – Ichabod: The Name Below All Names

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Have you ever heard someone say, “God is going to write over this nation; God is going to write over this church, ‘Ichabod, Ichabod, I-c-h-a-b-o-d’”? You say, “What on earth does ‘Ichabod’ mean?” We’re gonna study it today. The question is: would God ever write over you as a child of God: Ichabod?

PART ONE

Welcome Beloved, to our series on guarding His glory. We’ve talked about the importance of giving to the world a true, a correct estimate of who God is. We have talked about us as one nation under God. We are a nation that had its foundation in the Word of God, in the fear of God, the respect of God, the trust of God. But has the glory of God departed from the United States of America? Has the glory of God departed from the church? We need to look at that. You know as I was thinking about this series, I remembered a copy of a prayer that Paul Harvey read over the air in the year 2008. I would like to read this prayer to you and see what you think about it. It says,

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“Heavenly Father, we have come before You today to ask Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says ‘woe to those who call evil good.’ (See Isaiah 5:20) But that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium. We have reversed our values. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and we’ve called it building self-esteem. We have abused power and we’ve called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor’s possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, oh God, and know our hearts today. Cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen.” “Amen” means “so be it.” When Paul Harvey aired this prayer, the response to that prayer was greater than any response he had ever received in his whole history of broadcasting. What does that tell us? That tells us, Beloved, that there is a large element in the United States of America that is concerned about the glory of God, that is concerned that the nation of America remains one nation under God, a nation that has the blessing of God, a nation that has the protection of God, a nation that has it because it continues to glorify God. We need to go to 1 Samuel chapter 4. And in 1 Samuel chapter 4, what we find is we find Eli sitting down on his seat waiting for word because the ark of God has been taken into battle. The ark of God, remember, is that representative of the throne of God. Shiloh was the place where the tent of meeting was set up, where the tabernacle was set up. And what they have done is, they have lost the first battle with the Philistines and now they’re going back into battle. And they figure: “Hey, if we take the ark of God that has the pillar of cloud over it during the day, the Shekinah, the glory, the cloud and the pillar of fire over it at night, if we take that into battle, God is going with us. The glory of

God is going to go with us and obviously if God goes with us into battle, we're going to win the battle." Oh? Is it just because the ark is there that you're going to win the battle? Or is there something that goes, in essence, with the glory of God? Can we live any way we want to live and say, "Listen, I bear the name Christian; we're a Christian nation. God's on our team. We're going to win"? Oh? Are we going to win if we do not guard the glory of God? Well, Eli's sitting on his seat. His eyes are set. He is ninety-eight years old and he can't see what's going on, but he hears this commotion in the city. A man from the tribe of Benjamin has torn his clothes, thrown dust on his head and run to give the news. Eli's sitting there. His heart is trembling. And it's trembling not because of his sons, but because of the ark of God. Listen to what it says in verse 14 of 1 Samuel chapter 4. **"When Eli heard the noise of the outcry, he said, 'What does the noise of [the] commotion mean?' Then the man came hurriedly and told Eli. Now Eli was ninety-eight years old, and his eyes were set so that he could not see. [And] the man said to Eli, 'I am the one who came from the battle line....I have escaped...the battle line today.' And he said, 'How did things go, my son?' Then the one who brought the news replied, 'Israel has fled before the Philistines and there has...been a great slaughter among the people, and your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been taken.'"** It says, **"...when he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell off [his] seat...."** And it says, **"...backward beside the gate, and his neck was broken and he died, for he was old and heavy...."** He'd been eating too much fat of those sacrifices. And it says, **"...Thus he judged Israel forty years."** (1 Samuel 4:14-18) Now that's a very important phrase. And as you know, when you study with us, if you've downloaded the free study guide by going to preceptsforlife.com then you know one of the things that we teach you to do is, we teach you to mark your Bible. We teach you to mark key repeated words. We teach you to mark geographical locations by double underlining

them in green. We teach you mark time phrases by putting a green circle or a little green old fashioned clock over that time phrase and underlining the rest of the time phrase with a squiggly green line. We tell you to watch for statements that jump out. Well when it says, **“...Thus he judged Israel forty years.” (1 Samuel 4:18)** You want to mark that, because it's here that you find out that Eli was a judge. I've been telling you this, but now you see it for yourself. Now you've discovered truth for yourself. And so you put a green clock around “years” or around “forty” and a squiggly line underneath the rest of it. You see that he was a judge. And so we move from the book of Judges to 1 Samuel, we see Eli judges for forty years and then the young boy that he has been raising, the first born son of Hannah and Elkanah, this young boy, Samuel, is going to be the next judge. Now Samuel is still a young man at this point in this story. But he is about to take over. Why? Hophni dies. Phinehas dies. And Eli, who has judged Israel for forty years, dies. Now you're about to find out the meaning of “Ichabod”. Well let's see what it says. It says, **“Now his daughter-in-law...,”** verse 19 of 1 Samuel 4. **“Now his daughter-in-law....”** Whose daughter-in-law? Eli's daughter in law. **“...Phinehas's wife, was pregnant and about to give birth...when she heard the news that the ark of God was taken and that her father-in-law and [that] her husband had died, she [kneels] down...”** to the ground, **“...and [she gives] birth, for her pains came upon her.” (1 Samuel 4:19)** All of a sudden this shocking news: The ark of God has been taken. Your husband has died. Your father-in-law has died. All of a sudden she is in labor. She kneels down and she gives birth. And it says, **“And about [at] the time of her death the women who stood by her said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, for you have given birth to a son.’ But she did not answer or pay attention.” (1 Samuel 4:20)** Now why are these women; she's about to die and why are these women saying, “Don't be afraid, you've given birth to a son”? Because in the Jewish culture that son was so important because it meant that even when the father died the name of the

family would continue, and the possessions of the family would continue. But it's not just the death of her husband that is doing her in, but it is the loss of the Ark of the Covenant. Now why? Watch what it says in verse 21.

“And she called the boy Ichabod, saying, ‘The glory has departed from Israel,’ because the ark of God was taken and because of her father-in-law and her husband. She said, ‘The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God was taken.’” (1 Samuel 4:21-22) Ichabod: the glory has departed. How awful that God's glory would leave those people. We'll talk it more in just a minute.

PART TWO

Ichabod: the glory of God has departed. That's what Phinehas' wife, Eli's daughter-in-law, called her son. Can you imagine every place that he walked around they would be saying “Ichabod, Ichabod, come here”? Ichabod: the glory of God had departed. It was a reminder to the people of what had happened because they did not honor God as God. They thought: “Hey, we've got the Ark of the Covenant, we've got it made.” And they forgot what the Ark of the Covenant represented. It represented a holy, righteous God; a God that cannot overlook sin, a God that has to deal with sin. God is not like a rabbit's foot that you can pull out of your pocket and just rub with your hand. God doesn't work that way. You and I are responsible to guard the glory of God, Precious One. And Eli did not do it, Hophni and Phinehas did not do it, and the children of Israel did not do it. We need to look at 1 Samuel chapter 4 and we need to mark the word “glory” or “the glory of God.” So we're going to mark in a special way all through this series. What we're going to do is we're going to put a purple cloud around it because that's the color of royalty, and then we're going to color it yellow. I mean you can do anything you want. I mean some of you say, “Oh, Kay it helps so much when you tell me how to mark it 'cause I don't have to be creative.” So you do it—whatever you want, but this is my suggestion, a purple cloud

around it and color the inside yellow because that is for the light of His glory, because God is light. So put the yellow there and let's mark it. Let me read it to you again. Now you may have our observation worksheet on this passage, but I would suggest that you mark it in your Bible. If not now, do it later. Get in the habit of marking certain words consistently throughout the Word of God, and then every time you look down and you see "glory" you're gonna remember what you learned, and you're gonna be, you're gonna be challenged not to have "Ichabod" written over anything, because you're there and you want to glorify God. So let's mark. Remember Eli's daughter-in-law is dying. She's naming the son. Now watch what it says in verse 21, **"And she called the boy, Ichabod, saying, 'The glory....'"** Mark it with a purple cloud, color it yellow. **"...Has departed from Israel, because....,"** and then she's telling you why the glory has departed. **"...The glory...has departed because the ark of God was taken and because of her father-in-law and her husband."** (1 Samuel 4:21) But I want you to see that the ark of God is connected to the glory of God. Because remember about the ark of God: There was the cloud, the cloud during the day, the Shekinah is what we call it, or the pillar of fire during the night. So mark "glory" there and then come down, verse 22, God doesn't want you to miss it. He repeats it so that you remember it. When you mark it you remember it even more. And **"She said, 'The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God is taken.'"** (1 Samuel 4:22) Now what I want us to do is I want us to explore the ark of God and the glory of God simply because in this program what I want you to do is, I want you to learn the Word of God. I want you to know it backwards and forwards. I want you to watch Scripture interpret Scripture. I want you to see the importance of knowing the whole counsel of God, of reading through the Word of God with a purpose. This is why we have what we call the "New Inductive Study Series" where you, for your quiet time or devotions or Sunday School literature, can go through the Word of God book by book and mark the text and know what that book is

about. When you think about the book of Exodus, and this is where I want you to go: I want you to go to Exodus chapter 40. Now this is what I would do. Next to verse 22 of 1 Samuel chapter 4, I would write—and I would do it in pencil in case you ever want to move it again. If you have an “Inductive Study Bible” you have wide margins and so you’re able to do this better. But I would suggest that you mark next to that verse the word “glory” and then put “Exodus 40, verse 34-38”; “glory”, Exodus 40, verse 34 to 38. Now let’s go to the book of Exodus. It’s the second book in the Bible. You’re going to the last chapter of this book. Now when you go to the last chapter of this book what you need to understand is, the book of Exodus is about them coming out of the land of Egypt, going into the wilderness to Mt. Sinai, meeting with God at Mt. Sinai, getting the commandments and also being told how to build the furniture for the tent of meeting. Now in Exodus, chapter 40 the tent is completed. All the pieces of furniture have been made. They are being put in place. And this is what we read. And it says in verse 32—and I want to go back to verse 32, although I told you 34. It says **“When they entered the tent of meeting, and when they approached the altar, they washed....”** This is at the laver, **“...just as the Lord had commanded....He erected the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung...the veil for the gateway of the court. Thus Moses finished [his] work. Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.” (Exodus 40:32-34)** So here mark **“the glory of the LORD;”** the purple cloud, color it yellow. **“Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting...,”** why? **“...Because the cloud had settled on it....” (Exodus 40:35)** Now over the cloud I just put like a funnel, you know, like a symbol for a tornado. **“...And the glory of the LORD...,”** purple cloud again, yellow, **“...filled the tabernacle. Throughout all their journeys [wherever] the cloud was taken...from over the tabernacle, the sons of Israel would set out....” (Exodus 40:35-36)** They saw the cloud. They saw it moving. They said, “Hey, it’s time to

pack up. It's time to move out. **“But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day when it was taken up.” (Exodus 40:37)**

So now watch what happens. They're looking and the cloud begins to move and the children of Israel get up. They begin to pack up. They know that God is leading them someplace else. It's not Ichabod. The glory of God is not departing from them. The glory of God is leading them and that's what you and I want. **“...Throughout all their journeys, the [glory] of the LORD [the cloud] was on the tabernacle...and there was fire in it by night, in the sight of...the house of Israel.” (Exodus 40:38)** Oh, you don't want Ichabod. You want to follow the glory of God.