

GOD'S GLORY

Luke 2:8-14

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and **the glory of the Lord** shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"**Glorify to God** in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

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- The generation of the self-obsessed
 - 'God revealing his glory for his glory is for our good'

GOD REVEALING HIS GLORY...

- in creation

- in Scripture

- in Jesus

...FOR HIS GLORY...

- *'For my name's sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it,*

*for how should my name be profaned?
My glory I will not give to another'
(Isaiah 48:9-11)*

...IS FOR OUR GOOD

- God gets the glory, we get the joy

- *'Therefore, if God is truly for us, if he would give us the best and make our joy full, he must make it his aim to win our praise for himself. Not because he needs to shore up some weakness in himself or compensate for some deficiency, but because he loves us and seeks the fullness of our joy that can only be found in knowing and praising him, the most beautiful of all beings.*

God is the one Being in all the universe for whom seeking his own praise is the ultimately loving act. For him self-exaltation is the highest virtue. When he does all things "for the praise of his glory" as Ephesians 1 says, he preserves for us and offers to us the only thing in all the world which can satisfy our longings. God is for us, and therefore has been, is now, and always will be, for himself. Praise the Lord! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord' (John Piper)

➔ give up your small ambitions

➔ live for God's glory

- *'such Christian talk comes into violent collision with the man-centredness and self-centredness of the world. Fallen man, imprisoned in his own little ego, has...an almost insatiable appetite for the praise of his own glory. But the people of God have at least begun to be turned inside out...God's people are God's possession who live...for God's glory' (John Stott)*
- S.D.G ('Soli Deo Gloria')