

Date: 07.10.2020

Time: 7.30pm

Preacher: Gavino Fioretti

Psalm (read): Psalm 19:1-6

Reading: Isaiah 40

Text: Isaiah 40:5

Outline: To God alone be the glory

Introduction

God's will

God's Word

God's work

God's people

To God alone be the glory

• **Introduction**

We've been looking at the 5 sayings of the reformation. Last week we saw that faith in Jesus, trust in Christ, is all we need to see and experience the salvation of God. *To God alone be the glory* is at the heart of being reformed. The reformers rediscovered that all that God does, He does to bring glory to His Name.

1) God's will

This is God's pleasure: That the glory belongs to God and Him alone is God's will. This is God's pleasure, something that He delights in. He has pleasure in His glory. When people see that glory, it gives Him pleasure. The creation and all that God does reveals Him and brings Him glory. We see God's pleasure in being glorified in the trinity - the Father delights when the glory of the Son and the beauty of the Son is seen by the world. The Spirit reveals the beauty of the Son that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. All that Jesus did He did to reveal the Father. He directed the attention, honour and praise to the Father. Jesus speaks well of the Spirit. We see trinitarian pleasure.

This is God's command: In creation and in providence, God is making Himself known that others will know Him and bow the knee before Him. You cannot compare God with another person or idol - God alone deserves to be praised and He is to be praised and no-one else. This is why it's the first commandment.

This is God's decree: This is not wishful thinking; it will happen. The time will come when all will see and acknowledge His glory. Even the devil will acknowledge the glory of God.

2) God's Word

The law: The law is about glorifying God. God reveals His glory through His Word. This is His revelation. God is revealing Himself and His character and attributes through His Word to show His greatness and uniqueness.

The prophets: The message of the prophets was to show the glory, majesty and salvation of God that only He can bring.

The psalms: The psalms are our hymn book as they are full of God's worship and glory. We learn about the psalmist in the psalms, but above all else, we learn about God. As we sing them, we're learning about Him, His character, His attributes. We

learn about His wisdom.

The gospel: The gospel is the good news. In the gospel as it is revealed in the whole of scripture, we learn about Jesus who is the revelation of the Father. So as we learn of Him, as we see more of His beauty, we see more of the beauty of God and know more of Him. The whole of scripture reveals the glory of God.

The Bible doesn't please man as that's not its purpose. Its purpose is for God's Name to be glorified. God is the centre and circumference of scripture.

3) God's works

Creation: We read how the heavens declare the glory of God. The garden, a sunset, a volcano shows the glory of God and how great He is. There is a creation to remind us of the beauty and glory of the Creator.

Providence: The purpose of all that happens to us is for God to be glorified. Everything that happens, including COVID-19 and the decisions around it, happens to reveal the glory of God. This invisible virus reminds us that we are like the grass, here today, gone tomorrow. We're reminded how small we are and how the greatest of men is still but a man.

God's salvation: When Jesus comes, it's the Lord that comes. He's saved us in the way He's saved us that He might have the glory. You're saved not of works, so no-one can boast. God saves us through grace alone, in Christ alone, by faith alone that He alone be glorified.

4) God's people

Our purpose: Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever; to give Him the adoration, worship and place that He alone deserves. The purpose of God's people is to give Him glory.

Our worship: The purpose of our worship is not for our entertainment or experience, but for God to be glorified. We're not here to please ourselves, or the world, but to glorify God. That's the purpose and priority of the church; to glorify God. You might fail in many areas, but don't fail here. Worship is our response to the grace of God. As God reveals His glory to us, our response should be to praise Him. The endless praise of God and acknowledging His glory should be our response.

Our actions: What we do and what we eat, our behaviour and reactions should all bring the glory to God. Before you do anything, ask "will this bring glory to God or will it damage man's view of Him."

Our speech: When we speak, be aware that our speech should be God honouring.

Our future: We will be redeemed in body and soul, delivered from the presence of sin, unable to do what's wrong and then we'll glorify God with our words and works without sin. In the future, God's Name won't be compared to other gods as He'll be the only One we worship. The very crowns we receive, we'll cast before Him out of adoration and love because to Him alone belongs the glory.

We know only a little of this great God and maybe that's why we're so weak in glorifying Him. What do we need? We need God to come to us in His Word read, sang and preached. We need for Him to make Himself known, for the Spirit to point us to Christ and through Him to know the Father. Through God's self-revelation, we'll glorify Him. As we see Him, we'll glorify Him.