



Reformation Series: Soli Deo Gloria  
Mike Halpin ~ October 15, 2017

Intro: 1 Kings 10:1–10, Solomon & the Queen of Sheba

The Queen came to test Solomon, not believing the stories of his glory. She gave Solomon the wealth of Sheba only after she saw the reality of his greatness and glory and the happy state of all who got to enjoy his presence, wisdom and wealth.

I. Reformation Context, *Soli Deo Gloria*—

The Reformation occurred during gross excesses of the Roman Church.

- Popes and cardinals lived like kings, consuming the offerings of the laity on themselves.
- Indulgences were sold like junk bonds.
- It wasn't the glory of God that was being pursued but the comforts of clergy and the glory of man.

*The Church of Rome ... has become the most lawless den of thieves, the most shameless of all brothels, the very kingdom of sin, death and hell; so that not even antichrist, if he were to come, could devise any addition to its wickedness.*

Martin Luther

Out of that corruption the Reformers not only recovered the gospel but the key motivation for all of life— all things to the glory of God.

*Merchants In the Temple, Inside Pope Francis' Secret Battle Against Corruption in the Vatican*, by Nuzzi Gianluigi

II. Created to Glorify God—

Westminster Shorter Catechism of 1646:

- Q. What is the chief end of man?      A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

*The glory of God is the infinite beauty and greatness of his manifold perfections.*      John Piper

Glorifying God:

- Declaring those things that are true of God
  - Acting in accordance w/ God's own perfections
  - Motivated by a desire to please and glorify God, our hearts captivated by God's own perfections
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- Colossians 1:16
  - Romans 11:36

### III. Redeemed to Glorify God—

- Isaiah 43:7
- Ephesians 1:11-12
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- 1 Corinthians 10:31

The occupation of heaven and our future

- Revelation 4:9-11
- Revelation 5:11-13

### IV. God's Glory is our Good—

Glorifying God is the best thing we can do for God and for ourselves.

Excerpts from John Piper's *God's Passion for His Glory*, courtesy of Jesse Johnson

- God's passion for his own glory and his passion for my joy in him are not at odds.
- Therefore, God is as committed to my eternal and ever-increasing joy in him as he is to his own glory.  
Psalm 16:11
- Heaven will be a never-ending, ever-increasing discovery of more and more of God's glory with greater and ever-greater joy in him.
- It also follows that sin is the suicidal exchange of the glory of God for the broken cisterns of created things.
- The love of God for sinners is not his making much of them, but his graciously freeing and empowering them to enjoy making much of him.
- If the exhibition of God's glory and the deepest joy of human souls are one thing, then evangelism means depicting the beauty of Christ and his saving work with a heartfelt urgency of love that labors to help people find their satisfaction in him.
- Hell is unspeakably real, conscious, horrible and eternal—the experience in which God vindicates the worth of his glory in holy wrath on those who would not delight in what is infinitely glorious.
- Finally, if the exhibition of God's glory and the deepest joy of human souls are one thing, then, as C. S. Lewis said, "It is a Christian duty, as you know, for everyone to be as happy as he can."

If these calls to glorify God sound oppressive or somehow short of what we think life is all about it means one of two things:

1. We haven't been born again through faith alone in Christ alone and still live life out of our sinful, self-glorifying motivation.
2. We don't adequately know our God and Savior—

That brings us back to Solomon and the Queen of the South..... if we're not sure God is worth every breath of our life breathed to His glory we need to get to know Him better.

Like that famous Queen we need to see the reality of the greatness and goodness of our great God and Savior and so overcome our own unbelief. *Soli Deo Gloria!*