

# The Weight of God and the Lightness of Man

September 20, 2013

The Rev. Ted Wood

## 1. The Weight of God.

- a. “Glory” is a translation of the Hebrew word, *kabod*, which comes from the root word for *weight, heavy*. It can also be translated *wealth, abundance, substance, honor, splendor*.
- c. God’s Glory gives a thing or person true substance. “(In the tabernacle) I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory.” **Exodus 29:43**
- d. God’s Glory fills his creation
  - ✓ “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” **Is 6:3**
  - ✓ “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.” **Psalms 19:1**
  - ✓ Hubble telescope looked deep into the Glory in creation.
- e. God’s Glory is the object of evangelism. “Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!” **1 Chronicles 16:24**
- f. God’s Glory is His ultimate objective. “The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” **Habakkuk 2:14**

## 2. The lightness of man.

- a. “(God) knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.” **Psalms 103:14-16**
- b. “You have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!” **Psalms 39:5**
- c. “The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are but a breath.” **Psalms 49:11**. “Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.” **Psalms 144:4**
- d. “All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass.” **Isaiah 40:6f**
- e. “Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales ...” **Isaiah 40:15**

### 3. Some of Bruce's September 13 remarks on 2 Corinthians 3:17-18.

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the Glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of Glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

#### a. The present condition of the visible Christian Church.

- ✓ No power
- ✓ Very little influence
- ✓ No reformation or revival

#### b. The problem: the Church has failed to realize the Glory of God.

- ✓ "The reason why we worship God in a slight way is because we do not see God in His Glory." *Gospel Worship* by Jeremiah Burroughs.
- ✓ We think our faith, our moral efforts, the organizations we form, the activities we create -- that they all make a difference. We trust in the creativity of man. So much of it is about us.
- ✓ The problem of the Church is that we fail to realize who we are "in Christ" and the Glory that is ours.
- ✓ The New Testament writers did not focus on solving personal problems. When faced with personal difficulties, they ask, "Don't you remember who you are?"
- ✓ When we behold his Glory we in turn become filled with his Glory. "... beholding the Glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of Glory to another." 2 Corinthians 3:18
- ✓ Because of our Union with Christ, we are in fact a reflection of the Glory of God. When we look in the mirror we in truth see the Glory of God.

#### c. The ultimate objective of our redemption is the Glory of God.

- ✓ We have a low view of salvation, because we begin with man's need to be saved.
- ✓ Salvation is not about man's needs, and is much than forgiveness and blessings, but about God's restoration of His Glory in you and me.

"I say to the LORD, 'You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you' ... I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole *kabod* rejoices ..." Psalm 16:2, 8-9