



13 September 2024

God's glory today, and every day

It's a beautiful early fall day—or for those of you who are summer ending denialists, a beautiful late summer day.

As I look out and around it prompts me to think about the glory of our great God. Psalm 104 details some of God's splendid care for His creation and responds with praise and worship to Him for His great glory.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in His works; He looks at the earth, and it trembles; He touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my praise be pleasing to Him; as for me, I shall rejoice in the LORD.

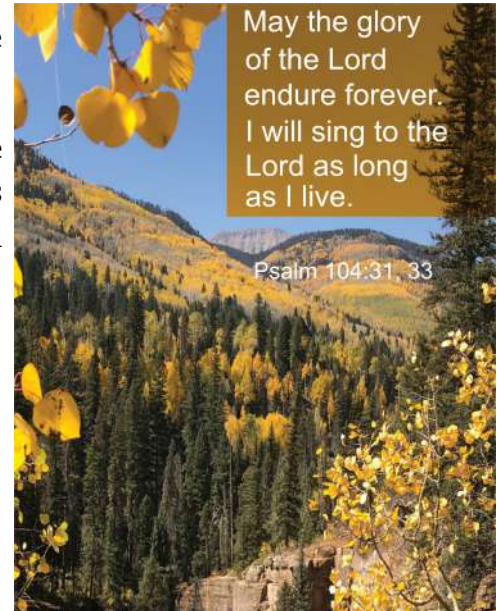
(verses 31-32, 34)

Glory. The ideas of the different Old Testament and New Testament words for glory include worthiness, substance, honor, fame and brightness. The Bible uses the word hundreds of times. What does it mean? While it can be difficult to define, glory refers to the beauty, splendor, brilliance of God's perfection, the excellence of His moral character, the majesty of His sovereign nature and power. Glory is frequently used in the Bible to describe the display of God's greatness.

The apostle Paul tells us God “dwells in unapproachable light”, and for us here on earth He is the One “no one has seen or can see.” Paul's response to this grand reality was “to Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen” (1 Timothy 6:16).

When Jesus was born the angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds “and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.” When the mass choir of angels joined in they praised God saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom He is pleased” (Luke 2:9, 14).

The writer of Hebrews tells us “He [Jesus] is the radiance of His [God's] glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power” (1:3).



The writer of Psalm 104 was so moved by God's glory that he sang, prayed, agreed with God that His glory would "endure forever."

The few verses of the Psalm I cited also show us something of how we should respond to the glory of God. Beyond acknowledging it, we are then to declare it, praise God for it continually, just as the Psalm writer did. He sings,

"I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my praise be pleasing to Him; as for me, I shall rejoice in the LORD."

In line with this Paul wrote that "whatever you do, do all things for the glory of God" (10:31).

God's glory is eternal as He is, as His character is. He displays it continually, today, every day, nice falls days and our worst days. Habakkuk is one of many excellent examples of having this truth in focus as he writes,

"Even if the fig tree does not blossom, and there is no fruit on the vines, if the yield of the olive fails, and the fields produce no food, even if the flock disappears from the fold, and there are no cattle in the stalls, yet I will triumph in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation" (3:17-18).

Whatever is going on in the world, in your world, look out around you, see the evidence of God's great glory and join the chorus! Join the chorus today, each day, every day in thankfulness and praise to our splendid God, and in so doing radiate His glory.

Pastor Lyle