

“SOLI DEO GLORIA”

The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

(Psalms 19:1 NKJV)

Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.

(Isaiah 60:1 NKJV)

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Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. (Romans 1:22-23 NKJV)

The sun is absolutely necessary for our existence. Farmers need the sun to grow their crops. In Alaska, where there are twenty-two hours of sunlight at the peak of the growing season, some vegetables grow to enormous size. On the other hand, I had a friend in West Virginia whose farm was on the side of a mountain. There were only sixty days in the growing season for his farm. There were only two crops that he could grow – potatoes and buckwheat. He alternated; one year he grew potatoes, the following year he grew buckwheat.

The sun is a source of heat. Direct sunlight is the best and cheapest form of heat. I had another friend in West Virginia who built a solar heated house. He only spent \$75 all winter for back-up heating.

The sun is the source of all other energy. Coal, oil, wood, even nuclear power all came from the sun. We are now using solar panels as a source of electric energy.

The sun is the source of some of the vitamins our body needs. Everyone should go outside in the sun every day for at least half an hour. The sun is a cleansing agent. Housewives hang clothes and linens out in the sun. It kills germs and mold spores, and is a natural bleach.

Our soul needs exposure to God's glory each day for nourishment, energy, and cleansing. "Glory of the LORD, arise, shine upon us."

1.) And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" (Isaiah 6:3 NKJV)

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

(Revelation 21:10-11 NKJV)

What is "the glory of God"? The glory of God can be described in terms of His holiness, or the manifestation of His infinite worth. The glorious radiance of God comes from the intrinsic beauty of His countless perfections just as the beauty of a magnificent diamond comes from its perfections in clarity, size, and distinction.

The glory of God displays the perfection of His grace. His grace is a gift that is not sought, deserved, or earned by its recipient.

to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:6 NKJV)

The glory of God is manifested in the fearful might of God.

These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, (2 Thessalonians 1:9 NKJV)

The glory of God shone forth before there was a world.

"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. (John 17:5 NKJV)

The glory of God is beyond anything comparable in creation and yet it is the standard for greatness and beauty. To glorify God is the chief goal to which all human awe, worship, praise, and honor are drawn. God has revealed how we are to worship Him. Any other way of worship is disobedience. Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God's glory.

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (Hebrews 1:1-3 NKJV)

2.) The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.
(Psalms 19:1 NKJV)

Where God is, His glory fills that place. For this reason, heaven,
the dwelling place of God, is sometimes referred to as "glory."

Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds. (Psalms 149:5 NKJV)
And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory
and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. (Luke 9:30-31)
And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4:19 NKJV)

The times when God came to earth, His glory was such that men
could not endure its blinding radiance. When He came upon Mt. Sinai:

Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and
lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud,
so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out
of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount
Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke
ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.
(Exodus 19:16-18 NKJV)

"So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain
was burning with fire, that you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your
elders. "And you said: 'Surely the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His
greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day
that God speaks with man; yet he still lives. (Deuteronomy 5:23-24 NKJV)

When Solomon's Temple was dedicated God's glory appeared:
indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to
be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the
trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is
good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled
with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for
the glory of the LORD filled the house of God. (2 Chronicles 5:13-14 NKJV)

When the angel of the Lord announced the birth of Jesus:
And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone
around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid,
for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. "For there is
born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:9-11)

On separate occasions both Paul and John saw Jesus in heaven as
the Son of God and the glory of God surrounded Him.

3. What is your goal in life? Has it changed? How has it been shaped by the Catechism – “The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” and by Scripture – “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJV)?

Different persons have chosen a wide variety of goals for their lives. For many athletes the chief purpose in their lives is to break some record that some other athlete established previously. Alexander the Great, Caesar Augustus, Genghis Khan, Joseph Stalin all built great empires by conquest. Their goal was to rule as much of the world as they could. Other people made it their life’s purpose to amass great wealth. John D. Rockefeller, J.P. Morgan, and Andrew Carnegie were just a few of the “robber barons.” Andrew Carnegie changed the goal of his life and gave away his great wealth to build Carnegie Hall, Carnegie-Mellon University, hundreds of libraries in towns all over the United States, and to establish the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the Carnegie Trust for Scottish Universities. Some men’s goals are greedy, others are commendable. The goal of believers is to proclaim God’s glory to all mankind.

Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. (Psalms 96:1-3 NKJV)

The perfect goal for every believer in Christ is to see God’s glory, to share God’s glory, and to rejoice in the hope of God’s glory. Johan Sebastian Bach carved “*Soli Deo Gloria*” on the side of his organ. More than half of the pieces of music which he wrote are signed S.D.G.

Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (Romans 8:30 NKJV)

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, (Jude 1:24 NKJV)