

**The Big Twelve**  
**The School of His Glory**  
**Ephesians 1:12**

**We started this series from Ephesians chapter 1: vs. 3-14 on May 22, 2013**

-We are still calling this: **'The Big Twelve'** series

-A school name has been assigned to each of the twelve verses to help us remember them

-A Brief recap of the Big Twelve schools covered to date starts in v. 3 of Ephesians Chapter 1

-these 12 verses, 12 schools if you will, are broken up into 3 sections following the order of the NAME in..

**..Matthew 28:19: Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**

**Turn to Eph. 1:3 ....**

If look carefully we will see here in Eph. 1:3-14 this same order of the singular NAME in Matt. 28:19 in vs. 3-6 we see the role of the Father as the planner and designer and the sender in vs. 7-12 we see the role of the Son as the one who is sent and who executes the Father's plan, in vs. 13-14 we the role of the Holy Spirit as the one who applies the finished work of the Son to believing mankind.

**Under the Father's section, vs. 3-6 we saw the role of the Father and the schools we covered were:**

#1: The School of Blessing, Ephesians 1:3

**3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,**

#2 The School of the Chosen, Ephesians 1:4

**4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, in order that we should be holy and without blame before Him now and always ('in love' we connected to v.5),**

#3 The School of Adopted Children, Ephesians 1:5

**5 (from v.4)... 'in love' having predestined us to adoption as sons (in case you doubt your spiritual birth, He makes it legal) by Jesus Christ to Himself, (did He do this reluctantly? ... no but) according to the good pleasure of His will,**

#4 The School of Acceptance, Ephesians 1:6

**(How can God who is light make sons of darkness, sons of light?) 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted (and highly favored) in the Beloved.**

**Under the Second Section in vs. 7-12 we see the role of the Son and the Schools covered thus far are:**

#5 The School of Redemption, Ephesians 1:7

**7 In Him we have redemption (the price?) through His blood, (the 1<sup>st</sup> result?) the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace**

#6 The School of Abundance, Ephesians 1:8

**8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,**

#7 The School of Mysteries, Ephesians 1:9

**9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,**

#8 The School of The Gathering, Ephesians 1:10

10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

#9, The School of The Gymnasium, Ephesians 1:11

Verse 11 reads: 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works out (as in a Gym!) all things according to the counsel of His will,

Still under the role of the Son ....

**We come now to our Tenth Big Twelve School, The School of His Glory**

**v. 12 that we who first trusted in the Christ**

- The first trusters were Jews
- The remnant of a nation that rejected 'the Christ' has brought forth praise to the God of Israel.
- This distinction of Jew & Gentile is made clear in v.13 where Paul says ... in Him 'you' also trusted, after 'you' heard the word of truth
- The 'you' here would be gentiles

**v.12 cont..... that we (Jew and Gentile) should be to the praise of His glory.**

- This is not our first encounter in this chapter with this phrase: 'to the praise of His glory'
- The grace of God that has made us accepted in the Beloved has also brought praise to His Glory,
- for it says in v.6 to **the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.**
- it is 'praise **for** the glory of His grace' that has saved us and made us accepted in the Beloved Son

-Here in v.12 it is those who first trusted in Christ that should be to the 'praise of His glory'.

-That again would be the Jewish Christians

-Followed again by v.13 **In Him you (gentiles) also trusted, after you (gentiles) heard the word of truth, specifically this truth: the gospel of your salvation ....**

-We also find our key phrase: 'to the praise of His Glory' in v. 14 where we read:

**14 who (the H.S.) is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.**

-Only in v. 6 do find 'His Glory' associated with any other attribute of Christ ...

-again we read 'to the praise of the glory with this descriptor ... of His grace'.

-At the heart of His Glory is His Grace

-So What is **His Glory** here that is praised as trust is put in Christ by Jews and Gentiles alike?

-Generally Glory is given to Him, like another form of praise

-The Hebrew word for glory is **kabod**: It means 'Heaviness', hence, glory, honor, riches, abundance

-Are heavily weighted characteristics of Him

-In the NT **doxa**, which at its heart means, 'to seem', signifies an opinion, an estimate and thus honor

-Glory also is used of His Shekinah Glory

-The manifestation of His presence in His essential essence which is Light

-1John 1:5, tells us that God is Light in Him is no darkness at all

-When His light is manifested we call it His Glory or His Shekinah Glory

-Now the word 'Shekinah' is not found in the Scriptures

-On **Shekinah** the Tyndale Bible Dictionary tells:

It is a transliteration of a Hebrew word meaning “the one who dwells” or “that which dwells.” The term enters Christian theology from its use in ... rabbinic literature to describe the ... presence in the world of the transcendent Deity. Although the word is not itself used in either Testament, it clearly originates in OT passages that describe God as dwelling among a people or in a particular place (12 scriptures are then referenced); God, whose dwelling is in heaven, also dwells on earth.

The term is also applied to the visible pillar of fire and smoke that dwelled in the midst of Israel at Sinai (Ex 19:16–18), in the wilderness (40:34–38), and in the temple (1 Kgs 6:13; 8:10–13; 2 Chr. 6:1–2).

The NT frequently alludes to the concept of the shekinah, even though the term itself is not used. God’s presence in the NT is frequently associated with light and glory. John’s Gospel emphasizes both the concept of glory and the concept of dwelling. When the Word became flesh, he dwelt among men who beheld his glory (Jn. 1:14)..... At the Mount of Transfiguration He literally let the inside Shekinah Glory radiate on the outside.

Paul also identifies Christ as the shekinah of God. All the fullness of the Godhead dwells in him bodily (Col 1:19; 2:9)..... the writer of Hebrews sees Christ as “the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being” (Heb. 1:3)

### **But in our 10<sup>th</sup> School, Glory Takes on Another Meaning**

-The two word phrase, ‘**His glory**’ is found 34 times in the Bible

-Only in our 12 verses are we told to **praise His Glory**, and that three times in v.6, v.12 and v.14 of ch. 1.

-V.6 identifies what it is about His Glory we are to praise: **to the Praise of the Glory of His Grace**

-In Eph. 3:16 we are told that His Glory is riches.

-Combined with v.6 we see that the Glory of God is rich in Grace!

-And what do these riches of Grace do for us besides make us accepted in the Beloved in v.6?

-Let’s read **Ephesians 3:16** carefully

**16 that He would grant you, according to the riches that come out of His glory, to be strengthened with might (how do these riches get to you from Heaven?) through His Spirit (to what part of you do they come?) in the inner man,**

Let’s turn and see ...

### **What does the OT say about ‘His Glory’**

-We have some enlightening uses of ‘His Glory’ in the OT that will help with our understanding of what is ‘His Glory’ that we are to praise.

-Let’s look at **Psalm 21:5** as a picture only: **His glory is great in Your salvation; Honor and majesty You have placed upon Him.**

-**John 2:11** (this is before the Cross and Resurrection and therefore technically OT)

**11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; (what was the result of manifesting His Glory?) and His disciples believed in Him.**

-**His Glory** here, the Glory of His Grace, the riches of His Glory

-The result of manifesting His Glory in John 2: ‘His disciples believed in Him

-What were the results of His Glory in Eph. 1:12 and 1:14 that issued in praise:

-1- the Jews who first believed in Him in 1:12

-2- And the gentiles of Ephesus who also in believed Him, in 1:13

-Both have issued forth praise to His Glory, the Glory of His Grace.

- Romans 9:23** is an interesting addition to our list of 'His Glory' verses that help us to better understand His Glory that is praised in Eph. 1:12 and 14
- starting in v.22: **22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?**
- So He has made know the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, that is both Jews and Gentiles
- Then he uses glory in a different way by stating he has prepared us for glory which has a totally different meaning from our verses in Eph. 1.
- It means preparing them for the 'glory' of Heaven and to be 'holders' of His Glory in Heaven,
- in our perfected state in bodies that can hold and handle glory
- and with perfected software of soul and spirit that will never claim any glory, or give any weight to ourselves, but only give glory to God.

### **That takes us a secondary discussion of Glory**

- The Shining Glory of God that we see at times in the scriptures was given to Adam and was lost by man.

### **-There are two Adams in Scripture**

#### **-1 Cor. 15:45-47**

- 45 And so it is written, "The first man (no other men before him on other planets) Adam became a living (zao-before sin) being." The last Adam became a life-giving (zao-giving) spirit.**
- 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural (better: 'unspiritual'), and afterwards the spiritual.**
- 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust (add a little water and breathe into it); the second Man is the Lord from or came out of heaven.**

- We know from the accounts of the Transfiguration of Christ that 'The Glory' resided in Him
- and at the mount of Transfiguration His inside, flesh veiled glory came out and shone before His disciples with the Shekinah Glory of God
- You can read those accounts in Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:1-8, and Luke 9:27-36.
- Peter makes reference to it in 2Peter 1:16-18
- So the Last Adam, the Second Man (many more were to follow!) contained the Glory of God

### **-The question on the docket is this: Did the First Adam & Eve Ever Possess the Glory of God?**

- I believe so for several reasons:

- 1-Adam and Eve were made in the image of God, and thus they possessed that image. (Gen. 1:26)**
- God the son had not taken on humanity yet and was a Spirit, as were all members of the Godhead
- So the image of God could not be physical per se
- BUT perhaps it was God's Light or His Glory that they took on or were given

### **2-Did they wear God's light on the outside of their physical bodies?**

- We read this in Gen. 2:25, before the sin chapter, chapter #3.
- Genesis 2:25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed (shame is an aftermarket product of sin).**
- Now the word naked needs context.
- It can as you might suspect mean totally devoid of any garments.
- It also can mean 'lightly clothed', as Is. 20:2-4
- Were they 'lightly clothed', literally clothed in light and thus naked?
- and it says they not ashamed.

- When they sinned in 3:7 their eyes were opened and they knew they were totally naked
- and sought to cover themselves with leaves.
- Why? I would suggest they were ashamed!

- I would suggest that all coverings were gone, the covering of light and glory
- and they were no longer lightly covered but totally uncovered, totally naked
- Not mostly naked but all naked.

### 3-My third reason is **Romans 3:23**

**-For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God**

- Did you ever stop and think about that verse?
- Would you describe sin as falling short of the Glory God?
- Would you describe sin as lacking the Glory of God?

- No amount of perfect living will ever restore us to the standing of being clothed in God's Glory as Adam and Eve were.
- Ours is no restoration project
- But a new birth is required thru faith in the Lord of Glory
- The law and law-keeping cannot restore the Glory that the first Adam and Eve had
- That Glory only comes from 'His Glory'
- To the Praise of His Glory
- And what is that Glory?
- The Glory of His Graces
- The riches of His Glory

-May we say that it is His Glory to make us sons and daughters of His Heavenly Father!

### **Now there are two more schools yet to be exposed and illuminated**

They both fall under the role of the Holy Spirit

#11, The School of the Sealed, Eph. 1:13 (aka the School of the Heavenly Seals)

**13 In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,**

and the 12<sup>th</sup> school, The School of Guarantees, Ephesians 1:14

**14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.**

-Notice how the 12th School ends the role of the Holy Spirit with these familiar words: **to the praise of His glory.**

- It is amazing to me how one phrase: **'to the praise of His glory'**
- Can drive a brother crazy for at least 6 months
- On and Off seeking after what exactly does this phrase mean: **'to the praise of His glory'?**
- We approach the Scriptures literally here at CCR
- We do not approach the Scriptures having already allegorized the Revelation or all of the future promises to Israel and assign them to the church.
- With a literal approach in mind I'm asking what does it mean **'to the praise of His glory'**
- Now I praise you Father, but that is not what it says!**
- I'm seeing thru the glass dimly, looking for illumination

- Oh the depths and riches of His Word
- Hopefully the results of my search and His illumination will bless you richly!

It is interesting to me that we basically have the same ending to each of the roles in our 12 verses!

- .... we have **to the praise of the Glory of His grace** in v. 6 ending the Father's role
- we have **to the Praise of His Glory**, ending the Son's role in v.12
- And we have **to the praise of His Glory** ending the Holy Spirit's role in our Redemption in v.14

- So what does Paul do after this in v.15?
- He says, **Therefore** and prays for them
- first praising and giving thanks for them and their faith
- and he prays these twelve verses, these 12 schools would be powerful in their lives.

## **To the praise of His Glory!**

### **Application**

#### **1-His Glory our Praise**

- whether the Glory of His graces
- Or the Glory of His riches
- It is all from Him and out of His Glory
- So what do we do: Praise
- Praise here is **epainos**.
- Ainos** means to tell tales of someone-
- Put epi in from of the word and we have an intensive piling on of great tales of fame and glory
- Only used in the Epistles by Paul primarily and some by Peter
- When used by Paul of God he does so always in association with His Glory

Is your life outside of here labeled as a life of praise?

-A life of telling tales of His greatness and Glory?

Do you see and realize that all you have, from your breath to your most prized possession, is all from the Riches of His Glory

The Glory of His Grace

#### **2-Why don't we see that Glory now in our Born Again state?**

- Why did Moses put a veil over His face when face to face with God receiving God's Law
- 2Corinthians 3:13** .... **Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing or fading away.**
- It is among other things a picture for us of the fact that we in these sinful bodies cannot contain and hold Glory
- We take Glory very personally and pridefully
- We cannot handle Glory or Glorification here on earth
- We like it too much!
- But we are being prepared for Glory in heaven along with our Glory capable bodies
- Don't touch the Glory!!1

#### **3-Why doesn't Eph. 1:6, 1:12, and 14 read: 'to the praise of Him'**

- Instead we have to the Praise of His Glory
- Think of yourself honestly....
- In the natural or better in your 'unspiritual state' don't you love to do things that bring you recognition

-Things that bring you 'thanks' and or 'honor' and or 'Glory'?

-Now project the concept of doings for Glory up to a perfect, sinless loving father and what do you have?

-Someone who loves and glories to make us accepted in the Beloved,

-give us the riches of His grace for the inner man's strength

-And thus bring Glory to Himself

-And what does that Glory look like from our position?

-It looks like praise and the telling of tales to His Glory

Let's Pray!