

To God Be the Glory

September 13, 2020

Matthew 6:9-10

Introduction: *“The greatest sin of the Church today is not any sin of commission or omission, but the sin of no mission.”* (Leonard Sweet) What is the mission of the Church?

Series Thesis Statement: The mission of the Church is to glorify God by proclaiming the Gospel through all the world and by making disciples who make disciples.

For Today: The mission of the Church is **to glorify God**...

- I. Matthew 6:9 – *“Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name.”*
 - A. What is meant by God’s “name”?
 - B. What does it mean to “hallow” God’s name?
 - C. Four truths:
 1. We were created to hallow God’s name (to live for God’s glory). (I Corinthians 10:31)
 2. But we do not and cannot hallow God’s name on our own. (Romans 3:23)
 3. We need Jesus Christ to show us God’s glory and save us from our self-glory. (II Corinthians 4:6)
 4. So when Christ saves us, He makes us part of His Church, that exists to bring glory to God. (Ephesians 1:12)
- II. Matthew 6:10 – *“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”*
 - A. We hallow His name by making Him appear greater in the eyes of others.
 - B. We hallow His name by seeking the advancement of Christ’s Kingdom.
 - C. We hallow His name by desiring God’s will over our individual will.

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'Connecting' Questions:

- 1) What kind of Bible do you most often use for your regular Bible-reading?
(Examples: A text Bible with minimal notes and additional features; a study Bible; a devotional Bible; a daily-reading/chronological Bible; a Bible app/online Bible; other)
- 2) Why do you like using that kind of Bible? What other Bibles have you used in the past?
- 3) How can we support you in prayer this week?

'Applying the Word' Questions:

- 1) This new sermon series is about Christ's mission for the Church. What does the word "mission" make you think about? What experience have you had at work or in other organizations with focusing upon a mission?
- 2) Leonard Sweet said: "The greatest sin of the Church today is not any sin of commission or omission, but the sin of no mission." What do you think he is seeing in churches that has brought him to that conclusion? As you have been involved in churches, what have you seen that causes you to either agree or disagree with Sweet's statement?
- 3) Dan's thesis for this sermon series is as follows: *The mission of the Church is to glorify God by proclaiming the gospel through all the world and by making disciples who make disciples.* While recognizing that you haven't yet heard all he will say in this series defending that statement, would you add anything to what you believe the mission of the Church is?
- 4) Dan taught that the mission of the Church begins with glorifying God. He taught that Jesus models this as He taught us to pray, "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name." Discuss what it means to hallow God's name. (You might consider discussing John Piper's explanation: "To hallow God's name means to acknowledge God's glory, to value it above all things, and to make it known.")
- 5) Discuss Thomas Watson's explanation of what it does (and doesn't) mean to glorify God: "God cannot be greater than He is, but we may make Him appear greater in the eyes of others." What are practical ways that we make God appear greater in the eyes of others?
- 6) Jesus also models His passion for glorifying God in his prayer in verse 10: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Discuss what it means to desire the advancement of Christ's Kingdom and for God's will to universally prevail. Discuss what that means practically for our priorities, both individually and as a church congregation.