

SONS WHO MAGNIFY GOD

- A. Introduction: We have been talking about magnifying God for many weeks. When we magnify God we make Him bigger in our eyes by seeing Him as He truly is.
1. For the past several weeks we have been magnifying God by talking about God's wonderful plan for men. Rom 11:33
 - a. God made men to be His sons -- sons on whom and through whom He could demonstrate His love, sons with whom He could share His power and authority, sons through whom He could express Himself.
 - b. Jesus, as a man, shows us what sons of God are supposed to look like. He shows us the kind of relationship that is supposed to exist between God and sons.
 - c. God planned before He ever formed the earth that we were to be sons who are conformed to the image of Christ. Eph 1:4,5; Rom 8:29
 2. Being conformed to the image of Christ is a process which begins when we are born again.
 - a. At the new birth we receive eternal life in our spirit and our spirit is conformed to the image of Christ. I John 5:11,12; II Cor 5:17,18
 - b. At the rapture of the church and resurrection of the dead our bodies will be made alive with eternal life, the life of God, just like Jesus' resurrection body. Phil 3:20,21; I John 3:2
 - c. Right now, in this life, we are to put on the new man -- let the new life within change the way we think, feel, and act. Eph 4:23,24
 1. This process involves our cooperation. We must study God's word and choose to think and act as it tells us to. Rom 12:1,2
 2. Then, the Spirit of God and the word of God work in our mind and emotions to conform them to the image of Christ. II Cor 3:18
 3. I John 3:2--Right now, we are finished works in progress -- fully God's beloved sons, but not yet fully conformed to the image of Christ. But, God deals with you on the basis of the part that is finished.
 - a. God, the Master Designer, sees the end result, the finished product, the picture He has had of you since eternity past, and He is working in you to bring His original picture of you to pass.
 - b. God now sees you, God sees you now, as His holy and beloved son. Col 3:12
 4. Even though God sees you as His holy and beloved son, if you see yourself as a no good worm, that is what your life will reflect. We have to learn to agree with God's view of us. We have to learn to relate to God on the basis of reality as it truly is. Reality is everything as God sees it.
 - a. We must learn to agree with God's view of us so we don't live in continual guilt, condemnation, and unworthiness over the part of us that is not yet finished.
 - b. We must learn to agree with God's view of us to help us be what we are supposed to be and to act like what we are.
 5. In this lesson we want to continue to magnify God by talking about learning to agree with God and reality as it truly is.
- B. Because we are finite beings, we do not, could not, have all the facts about reality. God, who is infinite and omniscient, knows everything. His perception of reality is accurate because He is reality or Truth.
1. Because of sin and its effect on the human race, our mind is cut off from reality as it truly is. Col 1:12; Eph 4:18
 - a. Our perception of reality has been warped by sin (Prov 28:1). Because of sin, man is cut off from consciousness or awareness of the invisible realm (John 3:3). Our mind is carnal and hostile to God (Rom 8:7).

- b. Rom 12:1,2--A vital element in the process of being conformed to the image of Christ in this life is renewing the mind. To renew your mind means to learn to see reality as it truly is, to see things the way God sees things.
 - 2. You must understand that what is real to you is what will be real in your life -- not what really is.
 - a. The wicked flee when no man pursues. Because the wicked believe someone is pursuing them they experience all the emotional turmoil of being pursued even though no one is pursuing them.
 - b. Gen 42:36--Jacob thought everything was against him. He thought that Joseph was dead and that he was going to lose Simeon and Benjamin as well.
 - 1. Even though it was not so, Jacob experienced every emotion you would feel if your son was dead and you were about to lose two more.
 - 2. Jacob's perception of reality did not take into account all the facts. Joseph was not dead. Jacob was not going to lose Simeon or Benjamin and he was about to be reunited with Joseph.
 - c. If you think God is mad at you, is out to get you, doesn't love or accept you, you will experience all the corresponding emotions that you would have if God really were out to get you. The problem is, that's not reality.
 - 3. Matt 14:24-33--Peter walked on water by the power of God. How did God see Peter? What was God's picture of Peter?
 - a. God had to have seen Peter as a man who could walk on water because it was the power of God that enabled Peter to walk on water. However, Peter, a man who according to God could walk on water, began to sink.
 - b. We find out from Jesus that Peter didn't sink because God changed His mind about Peter. Something in Peter changed.
 - 1. Peter looked at the waves, became afraid, and began to sink. Peter looked at the circumstances and became convinced they could stop him from walking and he began to sink. In other words, he began to experience reality as he saw it and not as God saw it.
 - 2. Jesus called that little faith or doubt. One definition of faith is agreement with God. How can two walk on water together except they agree, unless they both see reality as it truly is?
Amos 3:3
- C. I Sam 17:1-54--David's view of reality was different than the rest of Israel and it enabled him to prevail over Goliath. David saw reality the way God saw reality.
- 1. We all know the story. The Philistines came against Israel and sent their champion, Goliath, out to challenge Israel.
 - a. For forty days Goliath presented Israel with the same challenge: Send a man out to fight me, and the outcome of that fight will be the same for our armies. David took the challenge and defeated Goliath.
 - b. Anyone in Israel could have done what David did. The difference was not in David's ability or in God's preference of David over others in Israel, it was in his perception of reality.
 - 2. David faced the same challenge all of us face in life. Two different realities presented themselves to him and present themselves to us: what he (we) could see and feel and what God said. II Cor 4:18
 - a. Sight said there was no way anyone in Israel could beat Goliath. Goliath was seven to nine feet tall. His coat of mail weighed 200 pounds. His bronze javelin was several inches thick, tipped with a 25 pound iron spearhead. His armor bearer walked in front of him with a huge shield. v4-7
 - b. Every day for forty days Goliath presented a false picture of reality to Israel.
 - 1. Goliath called them the armies of Israel and the servants of Saul (v8,10). But, in reality, according to God's view of them, they were the armies of God (Ex 7:4) and the servants of

- God (Isa 44:1; 45:41).
2. These words had a definite effect on Israel. It made them afraid (v11,24) -- terrified and panic stricken (AAT), dismayed and feared exceedingly (Rotherham). But, in reality, according to God, since the days He had brought Israel out of bondage in Egypt was: Fear not in the face of your enemies. I will fight for you. Ex 14:13,14
 - c. This is what we often do when faced with the challenges of life. We let what we see and feel paint our picture of reality rather than what God says.
3. David saw reality as it truly was. Goliath was challenging the armies of the living God. v26,36
 - a. David recognized that Israel was in covenant with Almighty God and that victory over enemies was a covenant blessing (Lev 26:7-9). David knew God would make him victorious over his enemies.
 - b. The evidence of sight challenged David personally. v42--Goliath said: You're too little to fight me. You're too young to fight me. You're a "nice little red-cheeked boy." (Living)
 - c. David saw himself as God saw him, as a covenant man, a servant of God, in the army of the living God, well able to deal with this challenge by the power of God. David's answer to all of this was:
 1. God delivered me from a lion and a bear. I know He'll deliver me from this Philistine. v37
 2. David proclaimed what he, by the power of God, would do: I'll take your head off and feed you to the birds. v46
 4. We can learn some important things about seeing reality as it truly is from David.
 - a. David had the revelation, David knew, God was with him, literally, and that His presence is salvation. Ps 139:14; Ps 42:4; Ps 27:1
 1. Ps 23:4--When David walked through the valley of the shadow of death, he knew God was with him. David fought Goliath in the Valley of Elah southwest of Jerusalem.
 2. David knew that when he faced his enemies, he faced them hidden in God, his salvation. Ps 27:5; Ps 31:19,20
 3. In God we live, move, and have our being (Acts 28:17). Our life is hid with Christ in God (Col 3:3).
 - b. David knew he was in covenant relationship with God. When we talk about covenants, we often emphasize the legally binding aspects of a covenant -- and that is needful. But, never forget the relational aspects of the covenants between God and man.
 1. God delivered Israel and entered into relationship with them because He loved them and to keep His word to His friend Abraham. Deut 7:7,8;12,13
 2. David's picture of himself before God was: God is for me (Ps 56:9), and He thinks about me (Ps 40:17). David knew God would deliver him because God delighted in him (Ps 18:19).
 3. God is for us. God is for all of His sons. He delights in us. Rom 8:31
 - c. David took time to think about and talk about reality as it truly is.
 1. David took time to think about and meditate on God -- His goodness and His wonderful works (Ps 63:6) and His word (Ps 1:2; Josh 1:8).
 2. David was very skilled at, when facing difficulties, putting his focus back on God the source of his help and provision, by stating reality as it truly is. Ps 42:5,6; Ps 116:7; Ps 57
 5. An important element in magnifying God is speaking out of your mouth who God is and what He has done, is doing, and will do.
 - a. Magnifying God involves speaking out of your mouth reality as it truly is.
 1. When you do that, you are renewing your mind. When you do that it will lift you above the difficulty. When you do that you will begin to praise God which opens the door to His salvation in the situation. Ps 50:23

2. We have to learn to do what David did. We have a natural tendency to talk only about what we see -- and we get more of the same (Num 13:33). David proclaimed reality as it truly is in the face of contrary evidence and got victory.
 - b. Ps 34:3--You magnify the Lord by exalting His name. God's names are all revelations of His character. You magnify God when you speak or declare who He is out of your mouth.
 - c. Ps 69:30--God is magnified when you praise and thank Him. To praise God means to extol or to list the virtues and works of God, to thank Him for who He is and what He has done, is doing, and will do.
- D. Conclusion: You must understand that what is real to you -- your perception of reality -- is what will be real to you, not what really is. If you see yourself as a no good worm whom God can barely tolerate, that is what your life will reflect.
1. Reality is that right now, God is your loving Heavenly Father and you are His holy and beloved son. You must know and believe that. You must agree with God, with reality as it truly is.
 2. As we close out this lesson, let's take a brief survey of what is now true about you, what reality is as God, who really sees it, sees it: You are now: justified (Rom 5:9), reconciled (Rom 5:11), free from sin (Rom 6:22), delivered from the Law (Rom 7:6), free from guilt and condemnation (Rom 8:1), have obtained mercy (Rom 11:30), are a member of the body of Christ (I Cor 12:27), brought near (Eph 2:13), light in the Lord (5:8), a people of God (I Pet 2:10), returned to God (I Pet 2:25), a beloved son of God.
 3. Begin to agree with God and say, speak, out of your mouth reality as it truly is, reality as God sees it.
 - a. When you know and believe and boldly proclaim that you are now God's holy and beloved son God is magnified.
 - b. When you know and believe and boldly proclaim that God is a very present help for His beloved sons in trouble, God is magnified.