

Overflow: Mission
Bethany Assembly of God
7.28.2024

Central Proposition: The church's mission is to reveal the hidden glory of God.

Introduction

When asked “what’s your story,” what you say will reveal much about the role you believe you are playing. For the Christian, when asked “what’s your story” or “testimony” we begin with, “Well, I was this way, met Jesus, and am now this way.” I thank God that He saves us personally with our own unique stories, but an emphasis on individuality, that it’s “just me and Jesus,” will make us forget that our story is one small piece of a very large mosaic. We have to understand that our story is now hidden within God’s story. Ultimately the story is not about how God saved me so that He can use me, it’s about what God has been up to from the beginning. You have been intricately and carefully made by Him to house His presence and reveal that presence to the rest of mankind. That is THE story. There is no other.

We are to be greedy for God’s glory. See Isaiah 6:1-8.

The glory of God, which was so evident to the angels, is hidden to man! We have lost sight of our Creator’s glory. This is a problem. In fact, this is THE problem. Because when God is glorified, or recognized for who He is, the creation is blessed. God’s glory means humanity’s best possible state.

God is on a mission to reveal His hidden glory. See Isaiah 40:1-5; Exodus 40:34.

Isaiah speaks of a time when this hidden glory will be revealed. Israel was in exile for rejecting the Lord and being disobedient to the covenant He formed with them. Because of this, God’s glory had left Israel. But Isaiah spoke of a time when God would return to His people and “all flesh (humanity) shall see his glory.” Isaiah mentioning God’s glory coming in the wilderness echoes a time when this happened in Israel’s history. It’s when Israel constructed the tabernacle under Moses’ direction and God’s presence or glory rested upon the Ark of the Covenant containing the Law of God within the tabernacle.

Jesus is God’s glory. See Matthew 18:20; Isaiah 60:1-3.

So what does this have to do with our self-understanding and mission? What was once true of God’s glory seen in the Temple, is now true of God’s glory seen among Christ-followers. This is why Jesus is commonly referred to as the cornerstone or foundation of a new temple, of which we are the individual bricks. We are called to house the presence of Jesus just as the Temple housed the Shekinah glory. God’s glory abides with us to be seen by those who do not know Him. This has to generate a missional self-understanding for us as the church. If Jesus is the glory of God, then both creation and the church exist to make Him known. And It should ultimately define our individual life goal: I’m on mission to know God and make Him known. To be filled with His glory and to reveal it to others.

Conclusion

The mission of God is not merely something the church does, it is its DNA. This extends far beyond going on a mission trip once a year, which is great! This also extends far beyond serving at church on Sunday or Wednesday, that’s great! But we can do these things and still fail to understand that you have been filled with God’s presence to reveal His glory: at work, at home, in your marriage, at school, and at church. I want us to become greedy for God’s Glory. When we realize that we are alive to reveal God’s glory, we will always be looking for an opportunity to do so. It means we are genuinely convinced that God wants to fill us

with His presence and reveal it to the world. That God has chosen you to be the means through which the world knows God!