

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church  
2080 West Grand Blvd.  
Detroit, Michigan 48208  
Nathan Johnson, D.D., *Senior Pastor*

**Lesson 24: “Live to the Glory of God”  
I Peter 2: 9-12**

**Goal:** To embrace and fulfill our covenant relationship with God and one another.

**Objective:** To understand what it means to live to the glory of God.

**Covenant Segment:**

*“We further engage...through life, amid evil report, and good report, to seek to live to the glory of God.”*

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10).*

**Overview**

This portion of our covenant focuses for us the purpose of the life of faith we live as a covenant community. In Ephesians 2: 1-6, Paul reminds us that our “living to glory of God” tells an incredible story to the world!

*“It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! Then, he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah” [The Message].*

The greatest testimony to our relationship with God is manifested in our commitment to live to the glory of God. We are God's workmanship! We please God when we live a life of faith and His way. Our faith in God is demonstrated when we trust Him enough to depend on His guidance to direct our life paths instead of leaning on our own intellect and experience. (Prov. 3:5, 6) Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6). In this lesson, we will explore the importance of ‘walking by faith and not by sight’ regardless of life circumstances.

**Question #1**

What does the phrase mean to you, “We further engage ...through life, amid evil report and good report to seek to live to the glory of God?”

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- We must bear in mind the point in I Peter 4: 12-13 that emphasizes the short-lived and fleeting circumstances through which believers pass should not determine their outlook in life or their uplook toward God.<sup>1</sup>
- How we live our life in every circumstance of life is a testimony of the power of God to keep us. How do difficult life circumstances provide an opportunity to witness to each other and the world about God's sovereignty?

**Scripture:** *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. —Matthew 5:10 NKJV*

**Summary:**

Although we are constantly challenged and tested, these trials help mold and refine us to be more equipped to do God's will. We also must be careful to give God the glory in good times as well, and not allow our flesh to boast and take credit for what God does for us. In other words, no matter what life brings, our main purpose as children of God is to live to His Glory.

**Question #2**

Why does it seem harder for people to live to the glory of God amid good reports?

- We seek God and petition His mercy and providential care during our trials and our human nature wants to take credit or disregard God's response to our prayers when the storm passes.
- Every time we realize how much we need God, we realize that God is all we really need!

**Scripture:**

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. —Romans 8:28.*

**Summary:**

Sometimes success can give us a false sense of security and pride in our own abilities. We must remember as believers that there is no higher calling than to live our lives so that God is glorified. Our freedom and liberty is centered on Christ's resurrection and ascension. We must remember that only what is done for the glory of God has lasting value, everything else fades away.<sup>1</sup> It is important to realize that we must be vigilant so that when we are being blessed by

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<sup>1</sup> Turner, William C. **A Journey through the Church Covenant** Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press (2002) 125

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God we don't take those blessings for granted. It is easy for good times to cause us to lose our focus.

**Question #3**

How does the spirit of our Negro National anthem inspire us to reflect on God's goodness and mercy throughout several generations?

- God of our weary years, God of our silent tears.... Shadowed beneath Thy hand may we forever stand true to our God, true to our native land.
- No glory can be compared with the glory of those who have been redeemed, brought out of darkness into His marvelous light.<sup>2</sup>

**Scripture:**

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. —Romans 8:18*

*And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. —1 John 2:17*

**Summary:** No matter the circumstances for believers, whether good or bad, our allegiance ought to remain rooted in the assurance of God's Word and that He is glorified by our faith in Him directing our paths. We have been chosen by God and we are His elect. He brought us out of the darkness into His marvelous light. (I John 2:17). Our African American heritage reminds us to never forget what God has done for us as a people. We must remember and remain true to our purpose to live to the glory of God.

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<sup>2</sup> Turner, William C. **A Journey through the Church Covenant** Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press (2002) pg. 127

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## ***Where we are in the Church Covenant... \****

HAVING BEEN LED, AS WE BELIEVE, BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge and holiness; to give it a place in our affections, prayers, and services above every organization of human origin; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, towards its expenses, for the support of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. In case of difference of opinion in the church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit, and if we cannot unanimously agree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to study diligently the word of God; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintance; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be kind and just to those in our employ, and faithful in the service we promise others; endeavoring in the purity of heart and good will towards all men to exemplify and commend our holy faith.

We further engage to watch over, to pray for, to exhort and stir up each other unto every good word and work; to guard each other's reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others; to participate in each other's joys, and with tender sympathy bear one another's burdens and sorrows; to cultivate Christian courtesy; *to be slow to give or take offense*, but always ready for reconciliation, being mindful of the rules of the Savior in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, to secure it without delay; **and through life, amid evil report, and good report , to seek to live to the glory of God, who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

When we remove from this place, we engage as soon as possible to unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

*Each month we will include a copy of the Church Covenant and highlight the current lesson. It is our hope that this will give the larger context for the passage being studied.*