

UHPC WORSHIP / HOLY COMMUNION—MARCH 03, 2019

SERMON TOPIC: “THE GREATER GLORY”

“Arise and shine for your light has come, and the Glory of the LORD is risen upon you!” (Isaiah 60:1) May this be affirmed and confirmed in heaven and in earth for this church today! May it be established and sealed in us from this time forward and even forever through Christ Jesus in Abba/ Father and by the Holy Spirit! AMEN! (LET US DECLARE AND PERSONALIZE THIS SCRIPTURE FOR OURSELVES!)

In the glorious presence of Almighty God His holiness can be very intense. When this intense glory of God touches human beings they will be forever changed and transformed. In the presence of His Glory people are convicted of their sin and will quickly repent. (Remember Peter and Isaiah?) However, it seems in our time, not many care about the fact that Jehovah God in Trinity is a Holy God. So, I feel the need to ask: **“Do people still fear God or have they/we become so familiar or irreverent that the word HOLINESS has become obsolete?”** Once upon a time in the presence of the Holy God, human beings bowed down, recognized their own frailty and sin and repented. But in many churches today people no longer care if they lie, steal, or cheat. They don’t care who they disrespect, what kind of evil they do, for they just think “God understands and will forgive.” YES, God will forgive if they are truly sorry and repent. OR --if it were a sincere error and we ask pardon and make restitution where possible then God will forgive.

Psalm 99 tells us repeatedly to extol the LORD and bow down in worship, FOR THE LORD, JEHOVAH OUR GOD IS HOLY. V. 8 tells us how forgiving the LORD was to our ancestors, yet He was an avenger of their misdeeds. The anointing comes through the presence of the Glory of God and produces more grace and more holiness, more awareness of who we are and what we are to be about. It’s In the presence of the Glory of the Holy God that revelation and preparation happens. Transformation takes place, and we will be changed for good and forever. May we ever be mindful that the LORD our God is Holy. We are God’s children who were made in God’s image. As Children of God it is God’s plan to make us more like Himself. Broken...YES - but are given the remedy of THE GREATER GLORY TO BE OUR HEALER, OUR SAVIOR, OUR REDEEMER, LIFE ABUNDANT AND LIFE ETERNAL.

We sometimes refer to the Glory as AN ANOINTING. Let's consider a few holy people who experienced the glory/anointing of God:

1-ISAIAH: We might recall the vision that **Isaiah** had (Isaiah 6) in which he saw the LORD high and lifted up with His train filling the Temple. He saw Seraphs with six wings. With two they covered their face, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew as they called to one another saying: "*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is the LORD of Hosts. The whole earth is full of His Glory.*" In this awesome atmosphere of worship, the posts of the Temple shook, and smoke filled the house. In the presence of the Glory of the LORD, Isaiah recognized his sinfulness and cried: "*Woe is me, for I am a sinful man of unclean lips...*" Then with fire from the altar one of the angels touched his lips and purified them. He was later sent to prophesy to Israel.

2.MOSES: —When **Moses** saw the burning bush and attempted to approach it, a voice from heaven spoke to him saying: "*Moses, Moses, take off your shoes from off your feet for the ground on which you stand is holy ground.*" In Exodus 34 we see Moses again on Mt. Sinai fasting for forty days and forty nights. There the LORD gave him the Ten Commandments. As he descended the mountain, his face glowed with the glory of the presence of God (the anointing of the spirit) that the people could not look upon his face. When he spoke to them, he had to veil his face, but whenever he went into the presence of the LORD he would unveil it.

3. Some of us might remember that Elijah was taken up in a cloud with chariots of horses and fire into the Glory of the Almighty God. He dropped off his mantle and left it behind for Elisha. He was being translated into another realm of the spiritual reality or into a greater glory than who he was while on earth.

Yet as glorious as all these manifestations of God's glory was, there would be yet a GREATER GLORY. Paul refers to the glory of Moses in 2nd Corinth. 3, as the ministry of condemnation chisled on stone. IT WAS GLORIOUS, BUT THERE WAS TO BE ANOTHER MUCH GREATER GLORY. The Glory of Moses was temporary, but the Greater Glory would be permanent. Paul considered "The Greater Glory" of Christ Jesus, to be the MINISTRY OF JUSTIFICATION/ THE MINISTRY OF GRACE. This Glory abounds much greater than the first one of the Old Covenant in Moses which was the lesser Glory. This lesser glory was set aside because the Greater

Glory of the Spirit of Christ had come and was more powerful, more glorious and was permanent.

Therefore, we who have Christ have the Greater Glory and do not need to veil our faces. We can act with greater boldness and not be afraid of the direct wrath of God. We have a permanent Mediator and the greatest of all High Priests in the person and deity of Christ Jesus our Sacrificial Lamb... the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. We are not like Moses, who had to veil his face.

According to Paul, those who still remain in the Glory of Moses still have their minds hardened when they read the Old Covenant. ONLY WHEN ONE TURNS TO CHRIST IS THE VEIL LIFTED AND SET ASIDE. Paul explained that the SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS THE SPIRIT OF LIBERTY AND FREEDOM. All who have Christ have the GREATER GLORY and are being transformed more and more into His likeness and image. He is our Intercessor who pleads our cause before a Holy God. It is His Blood that justifies us and presents us faultless before the Father. It is by the power of His name that we pray in faith and have our prayers answered. Our sins are buried in baptism with Him, and we are raised to new life in His resurrection.

3. Today is Transfiguration Sunday and most of us are familiar with the manifestation of THE GREATER GLORY ON MT. TABOR. Jesus went up to its pinnacle to pray. He took Peter, James, and John with Him. As He was praying the Bible tells us in Luke 9, that His countenance / face changed and his robe became exceedingly white. Suddenly two apparitions of Moses and Elijah appeared and spoke to Him. They told Him about His near departure to be accomplished at Jerusalem. The disciples became drowsy but did not fall asleep. So, Peter began to tell Jesus that he thought they should build three tabernacles on the mountain... one for Christ, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. As Peter was speaking a GLORY CLOUD came down and covered them. When the cloud lifted, Moses and Elijah had left and only Jesus remained. When they went down from the mountain they said nothing to anyone during those days. One Gospel tells us that Jesus told them not to say anything until after His resurrection.

This transfiguration of Jesus in that GLORY ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP outshone all those already mentioned. The blazing glory of God that permeated Jesus, transformed Him completely. He was no longer the same Jesus who they knew over the years they walked with Him. **This most powerful anointing transformed**

and strengthened Him to accomplish the task of Salvation through the Ministry of Justification for humanity. He was empowered to face all that awaited Him from the evil of this world and to give us the victory over sin, condemnation, and death. His anointing brings us closer to our Creator in the Heavenly Kingdom. He takes us from Glory to Glory and transforms us more and more into His likeness and image. His anointing and Glory bring us empowerment to do the will of the Father. His Spirit sanctifies us and makes us holy through **His** perfect holiness.

“Holiness” has become almost a dirty word for some Believers these days. Some may quote: “Rend your hearts and not your garments.” But if our heart is rend, then I believe it will reflect like shining light in our thoughts, words, and deeds--even in our appearance, and actions. Our character and demeanor will change. YES, there is liberty in the presence of the Greater Glory of God in Christ Jesus. But that liberty and freedom is no excuse for dishonor or disrespect for the presence of a Holy God. Certainly, we should worship, of course we should rejoice, even dance, lift our hands, bow our knees... in the presence of the Glory of God and for the reverence to the Holiness of the Almighty. I pray the Almighty God to bring about a greater sanctification by the Holy Spirit for us and for this church.

PRAYER: May the Greater Glory of God in Christ Jesus, become permanent and reflect upon us so that we will act with confidence and boldness, empower us and enable us to live in love, with joy, rejoicing, worshipping, praying with faith, with wisdom, and with understanding. May the Greater Glory of the Spirit of Christ transform us permanently! YES, THE GLORY OF ISAIAH WAS GREAT. THE GLORY OF ELIJAH WAS AWESOME. THE GLORY OF MOSES WAS POWERFUL. BUT THERE IS NOTHING LIKE THE GREATER GLORY IN CHRIST JESUS OF WHICH WE ARE INHERITORS AND BENEFACTORS. IN HIS GLORY WE ARE BEING CHANGED FROM GLORY TO GLORY, AND TRANSFORMED TO BE OF HIS LIKENESS. Let the church arise and let our lights shine, for the GLORY OF THE LORD IS RISEN UPON US. May we never be the same as we came, but be lifted to a new place in the anointing of the Glory of God in Christ Jesus. AMEN.

Sing: “O the glory of His presence; we Your children give You reverence. So, arise from Your rest and be blessed by our praise, as we glory in Your embrace. As Your

presence now fills this place.”