

GLORIFYING GOD

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Jesus is telling us, His disciples, to live our lives in such a way that it causes those in this world to glorify God. Every child of God is to be a bright shining light in a world of darkness and sin. Every child of God is to possess the attitudes and characteristics taught by Jesus in the beatitudes (5:3-12). Be humble (v. 3). Mourn over any sin (v. 4). Be meek (v. 5). Hunger and thirst for righteousness (v. 6). Be merciful (v. 7). Be pure in heart (v. 8]. Be a peacemaker (v. 9). Be willing to suffer for righteousness' sake (vv. 10-12). We are to be the salt of the earth (v. 13). And when the above attributes are true of our character, then we will indeed be "the light of the world" (v. 14).

By living a life that is not conformed to this world but transformed by the gospel of Christ (Rom. 12:2), we shine our lights "in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation" (Philippians 2:15). Each day those in this world should be observing our good works (1 Peter 2:12), which means we must remain active serving the Lord and others around us. Like our Lord we need to go about "doing good" to all (Acts 10:38; Gal. 6:10). We are to be "zealous for good works" (Titus 2:14), "be careful to maintain good works" (Titus 3:8), that we "may not be unfruitful" (Titus 3:14). And let us never forget that "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). What a marvelous thought it is that if we live a Christ-like life it will cause some in this world to glorify their Father in Heaven, and ultimately, come to salvation!