

What God magnifies He *honour* (Pt 2 Honour)

This is our second study on the word *honour* in the Holy Scriptures. In our previous study we looked at the meaning of the word *honour* in the context of Scripture and found *honour* has a sense of respect (see Lev.19: 15 & Judg.4: 9), it has link to a humility (see Prov.18: 12, 29: 23), a sense of obedience (see Ex.20: 12 cp. Col.3: 20), an association with truthfulness (see 1Sam.9: 6) and in Ps.8: 5 there is linked with the word glory. In this study we add magnify, where we see what the Lord magnifies He *honours* (see Is.42: 21).

In our first teaching we covered four (4) points:-

1. God gave *honour* to Israel
2. Israel were to *honour* God
3. God the Father gave *honour* to the Son
4. Christians *honour* God the Father, through His Son

In this our second teaching we will cover an additional four (4) points:-

1. God's *honour* dwells with Him
2. God's children are to sing of His *honour*
3. God's work is *honourable*
4. God *honours* His law

Let us add a little detail to each of our point:-

1. God's *honour* dwells with Him

Pss 26:8 *Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.*

See also: Pss 104:1, 96:6, 1Chr 16:27

As mentioned *honour* in the Scripture can mean glory (see Ps.8: 5) and we see that God's glory filled the house of the Lord (see 2Kgs.8: 11), just as David speaks of God's *honour* dwelling in His house (see Ps.104: 1). Therefore, His *honour*, His glory dwells with Him.

But what else dwelt in the house of the Lord?

He put His name there and in Jerusalem (see 2Kgs 21: 7, 23: 27 & 2Chr.33: 7) and His name is glorious, it has high respect, it is a good name and it is a name that is *honoured*. And His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, His name is the name above ALL names, clearly a name to be *honoured*.

So, where is God? Well, we know throughout the Scriptures the Lord is in heaven (see Lk.11: 2, Jn. 12: 28 & Rev.3: 12) and He dwelleth no more in a house or temple as He did during the time of Israel's wandering through the wilderness (see Acts 7: 48 & 17: 24), but dwells in the body of the believer (see 1Cor.3: 16, 17, 6: 19 & 2Cor.6: 26 through His Holy Spirit. And given that the Holy Ghost is a member of the triune Godhead (see 1Jn.5: 7) and He (the Holy Ghost) is God, then God's *honour* dwells in believers. Lets also consider a little further the verses in Acts 7: 48 and 17: 24 which appear to indicate God is greater than heaven and earth and cannot be contained in them (see also 2Chr.2: 6), hence there is no place He cannot be found, for those who seek Him (see 2Chr.15: 2).

But not every person that calls themselves a Christian believes this to be the case. Read the following quoted from the official Jehovah Witness (JW) website:

"In the Bible, God's holy spirit is identified as God's power in action. Hence, an accurate translation of the Bible's Hebrew text refers to God's spirit as God's active force." (Genesis 1:2) This concept is well supported throughout the Bible.—Micah 3:8; Luke 1:35; Acts 10:38. Contrary to popular belief, God is not present everywhere at all times. Rather, he dwells in the spirit realm, in an "established place of dwelling," or residence. (1 Kings 8:39; 2 Chronicles 6:39) The Scriptures also refer to a specific place where God lives and has his "throne." (1 Kings 22:19; Isaiah 6:1; Daniel 7:9; Revelation 4:1-3) However, from his "established place of dwelling," he can use his active force to reach out into every corner of both the spirit realm and the physical realm.—Psalm 139:7." (see http://www.watchtower.org/e200607a/article_01.htm).

But how does the JW's beliefs stack up with 1Cor.6: 19, 1Jn.5: 7 and other verses we have looked at? They do not!

According to the Holy Scriptures, God's *honour* dwells with Him, and He is with us in the form of His Holy Spirit and in heaven, and so is His *honour*, His good name, His glory. Let each one of us remember this Bible truth and

encourage the young believers who from time to time on their journey will feel alone and wonder where the Lord is., let us remind them that God is with them, as is His *honour* and His majestic glory.

2. *God's children are to sing of His honour*

Pss 66:2 *Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious.*

See also Pss 71:8

When you next sing to the Lord in the shower, or your quiet time, or whilst you are on a bus or a car, try singing of the *honour* of God's name. We know we are speak of his glorious *honour* (see Pss 145:5 *I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works*), but now we are also to sing of his *honour*.

Among all the Patriarchs David is the one we read about the most who sung before the Lord, who danced before His God. He did so with musical instruments (see 2Sam.6: 5, 2Chr.7: 6 & 2Chr.29: 27) and much rejoicing. There was no one else like David with his love of singing and making music and dancing (see Ps.149: 3) before the Lord. He would sing forth his praises of the Lord's name (see 2Sam.22: 50, Ps.18: 49, 68: 4, 92: 1,), he would sing praises and declare the works of the Lord (see Ps.9: 11). Many of the Psalms of David attest to his love of singing and worshipping God. I know brethren who when they sing hymns to God in their worship they do so from the Psalms of David. That is one way to ensure beyond doubt that the Psalm we are singing will bring Him honour and glory.

Then you walk into a modern church building at 10am on Sunday expecting to worship and you listening to an hour of music. Thats great you say. Not when that music is a band, a guitar, drums and a beat that almost reminds you of a punk rock concert! I struggle to see how such is music contributes to worship and singing in *honour* of our God. I know churches that put on such music as a lure to encourage the young folk through the doors, and that bear fruit in putting bums on pews, but when they come in to that house of God, that place of worship, are they going into a place where the Lord is being worshipped, where they are singing of the Lord's *honour* as in the Psalms of David, or is there as much of the world inside the church as their outside?

If this is you, or you know someone that goes to church because they enjoy the music and the music is rock, then I encourage you to pray for them and read some information and testimonies of those who have come out of such music (see <http://www.av1611.org/crock.html>) and then *prove all things* (1Thes.5: 21) from the Scriptures. This is not a study on the truthfulness or otherwise of Christian rock music, but as we look to the Scriptures for the word *honour*, we read that we are to sing forth the *honour* of God's glorious name and in doing so we have touched on this subject of rock music.

Let us sing forth His *honour*, the *honour* due His Holy and worthy name, that name above all names, even Jesus. Let us pray for our young who have been encouraged to the church by its music and ask the Lord to show them the truth of what is and what is not music that glorifies and *honours* the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. For where ever we have been, what ever we thought was okay, may be the very thing that the Lord is asking us to give up, as we seek to worship Him in truth. Let us worship God today in our singing, as we sing forth the *honour* of His name.

3. *God's work is honourable*

Pss 111:3 *His work [is] honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever.*

We know His work is perfect because we read this truth in Deut.32: 4 (also Job 37: 16).

We know His work is perfect because we look around us at what He created and see evidence of how perfectly everything fits and works together in the universe and on earth.

We know His work is perfect because we have His perfect, written revelation available in the English text of the 1611Authorized Bible.

But did you know that His work is *honourable*? And just incase you wanted further confirmation that *honour* is similar to glory, here we have in our verse from Psalms another link made between the two. His work is *honourable* and glorious.

Every time a scientist, student, TV host, preacher or your average Joe Bloggs speaks of 'how the world began' and leaves out God, they *dishonour* Him, because creation *is* His workmanship and it is perfect and *honourable*. The scientists can talk about the Boson Higgs particle or as some have called it, the God particle and they can assume that God was therefore not the one who created the heavens and the earth, but according to the Scriptures, *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God* (see Ps.14: 1 & 53: 1) and science in the Scriptures is falsely so called (see 1Tim.6: 20). So the Cern research centre in Switzerland can spend \$13.25 billion or what ever they like on trying to disprove the Biblical fact that God stretched forth the heavens and spread forth the earth (see Is.42: 5), by His words came

into the existence our spectacular solar system (see Ps.33: 6), but science so falsely called will never prove that God does not exist. Let us pray that the harder they search to disprove the Lord, they will find there is only one credible answer for 'how life began' and that will lead them to Him. And remember that the Lord who made the stars, provided details of Pleiades and Orion in the book of Job (see 38: 31) about 3500 years before such detail was discovered (see Answers: A Series of Follow up Bible Studies on Life's Key Questions, by Keith Piper, page 15).

Let us remind our young who enter our school system, read books and watch TV programs like 'The Big Bang Theory' of the biblical truth that God created the heavens and all His works are *honourable* and they should give Him the *honour* He is due, for it is His workmanship.

4. God *honours* His law

Isa 42:21 *The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make [it] honourable.*

God *honours* His law, that is He makes it *honourable*, But the law is not *honourable* just because it is the law, but because He has magnified it and in doing so, made it *honourable*. So in this verse in Isaiah we uncover a deeper meaning of the word honour, where it is linked to magnify, which makes sense because the only way someone can be *honoured* is if someone greater than they, magnifies them, so if God magnifies His law it is made *honourable*.

So what ever God magnifies it is made *honourable*. In this example He has magnified His law which in a general sense could refer to His Holy Scriptures, as confirmed by Ps.138: 2 *I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*

So, what is made *honourable* in God's sight? That which He magnifies, therefore His word (the Holy Scriptures) are *honoured*, because He magnifies His word above His name!

Question :

How can believers give *honour* to the Holy Scriptures (more than they do the name of the Lord Jesus Christ), if the Holy Scriptures, His word, His law is not perfect?

How do believers who hold an NIV, GN, RSV or NWT, which has errors within its pages (see Mk.1: 2, 3), *honour* that book more than the *glorious and fearful name, THE Lord THY GOD* (see Deut.28: 58)?

I could not. Not only do I struggle to hold up a counterfeit bible and say, *Thus saith the Lord*, but I struggle to give any *honour* to it, whereas with the 1611AB that is perfect, and after 400 years has proven to be trustworthy, it has proven to be His word and His work and God *honours* His work. We are to give *honour* to that book not holding it up like an idol and worshipping it, but to *honour* it because God has magnified His law, His Holy Scriptures above His name.

Maybe there is some questions that arise from this, that would be worth putting to the next person you meet who claims to be a Christian, but considers his NIV, GN or Living Bible, to be The Bible; do you agree that God, *honours* His word? Do you believe His work is perfect? Do you believe that we Christians are to *honour* His word more than we do His precious name? If yes to all of these, then how do you, *honour* the book you claim to be the word of God, that is not perfect, that has errors within its pages?

I remember a discussion with Dr Tim Meadowcroft my supervisor at Bible College and he mentioned that those who dogmatically put forward the KJV bible are no different to the Muslim who practically worship their book, the Qu't'an, they esteem the book higher than Muhammad or Allah. He was claiming that the KJV only camp of believers esteem the KJV above Jesus. I did not respond, but whilst writing this study it occurred to me that Tim may have a point, but whereas he shared his point as a negative, in a way of putting me off The Book, it can be turned around for a positive. Because as we have seen in this point, what God magnifies He makes *honourable*. We know He magnifies His word and we know He magnifies His glorious name and we know He magnifies His word above His name. So in a way, Dr. Tim's view of the KJV onlyism stand is biblical, but I have yet to read anyone who worships the book, but certainly if they are obedient to The Book they will magnify His words, they will *honour* His law, the Holy Scriptures above the precious name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And that is not because Dr Tim said it but because God's word says it to be true. Let us remind each other that God *honours* His law, His Holy Scriptures and so should we.

Having said what we have said, let us say it again, in this our second study on the word *honour*, we have covered four (4) points:-

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