

The Big Question

What if the world rejects me for glorifying God?

Rejoice! That might not be the answer you were looking for, but it is the answer the apostle Paul gave when the world rejected him. He was glad to be so effective at glorifying God that the world tried to put out his spiritual light forever by beating him, imprisoning him, and eventually putting him to death. They wanted to do all they could to keep him quiet and to keep his faith from spreading throughout the Roman Empire.

While in prison for preaching the gospel, Paul wrote to the church in Philippi. He told them that he fully expected God to be magnified through his life even if the Romans killed him for his faith in Christ (Philippians 1:20). Well, did Paul's expectations come true? Absolutely! You are reading about his strong testimony nearly two thousand years after the Romans killed him for standing for Christ.

His testimony shows the power of God's grace to help a believer face strong opposition with peace and joy. When we read about all that God did through Paul's life and death, we should respond by giving glory to God!

Paul understood that the Philippians needed constant encouragement if they were going to choose to live for God's glory. That's why he told them to work together to support one another as they faced those who wanted to destroy them (Philippians 1:27).

Strong Christian friends can help you live to bring glory to God instead of yourself. Who can you encourage to live for God's glory? Who could encourage you?

Don't be fooled into believing that living for self means a worry-free life. In the end, living to glorify self leads to disappointment and regret.



Case in Point

A New Season, a New Purpose

Jackson counted down the days on his calendar. Three more weeks until his first baseball practice of the spring. He loved playing baseball and being part of a team. Last year he played well on the field but didn't do so well in the dugout. He made a point not to tell any of his teammates that he is a Christian. He worried that they might reject him or make fun of him. So when Jackson had chances to take a stand for Christ, he backed off. He joined the other players in laughing at Tom's awkward running motion. And he said a few bad words so he would sound like the other players.

This year Jackson purposed to live for God's glory instead of his own even if it meant he might become the one who was laughed at. Jackson wants his light to shine brightly so his teammates might see his good works and learn about the God to Whom they will someday answer.



Ponder Points

1. What do you think of Jackson's plan to live for God's glory before his baseball team?
2. When have you laid aside your personal glory so God might be glorified through your life?
3. What changes could you make so God might be glorified through your life?



Message Mix Up

Fix the misspelled words in the sentences below. Replace one of the letters in each of the words in all CAPS so the sentences make sense. Put the wrong letters in order on the blanks below to complete an important message from this week's lesson.

1. You are the **TIGHT** of the **WOOLD**.
2. A **CITT** on a **HILH** can't be **HEDDEN**.
3. No one lights a **GANDLE** and puts it **UNDEL** a **BOSHEL**.
4. Let your light **SHIRE** before **YEN**.
5. Your **GOOO FORKS GILL GOORIFY** the Father in **HEAVED**.

Do all _ _ _ _ _

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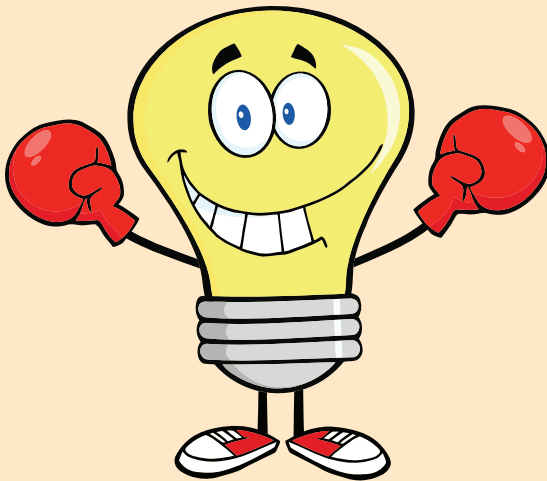


ANSWER: 1. Light, World; 2. City, Hill, Hidden; 3. Candle, Under, Bushel; 4. Shine, Men; 5. Good, Works, Will, Glorify, Heaven. DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD.



Joke Corner

Q: What did the fans yell to the boxing light bulb?



A: Sock-et to him!

Measuring Growth

Measurables

Look for the following indicators that your child seeks to glorify God.

1. My child talks about God in his or her daily conversations.
2. My child isn't obsessed with his or her appearance.
3. My child doesn't seek to draw attention to him- or herself.
4. My child praises God often.



The Junior lesson for this week covered the believer's role as the light of the world. God saves people so they might live for Him and shine the light of His glory to the lost world. Your child was challenged to look for ways to glorify God every day. Talk with your child about the measurables.



STRONG
kids