

DOXOLOGIES

SERMON #6: GLORY DEMONSTRATED AND KNOWN [1 Peter]

Doxologies: To him be glory....

[Note: here I give only sermon notes and a general outline. For the most part, the personal illustrations I would use in preaching the sermon are not included. Neither do I give a detailed study of the text. Please note, especially for preachers and teachers, careful exposition and application are always a significant part of the expository sermon.]

1 Pet 1:3, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

1 Pet 4:11, To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Pet 5:11, To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

2 Pet. 3:18 - (May you) grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen

Introduction

We come to Peter's writings, doxologies that begin and end the books he wrote, plus another doxology with a somewhat odd placement (1 Pet. 4:11). The theme of Peter's writings is knowledge; knowledge is the antidote to false teaching. Knowledge is essential to godly living.

Four doxologies, four points. But first some theory. I tell you where we are going, how we will get there. What is my plan? What is the goal? The goal of preaching, the goal of your reading and study.

Excursus: my advice for preaching.

-1- *Figure out where God is in the text; stay centered on God, his nature, his plan, his truth. No message that does not show how God fits into the mix can make much difference. We can live good lives, we can be good people, but we cannot please God without seeing God clearly. Without God, the text becomes about us, the illustrations are about us, the focus is on us. I like the doxologies because they make it easy to call attention to our great God.*

-2- *Highlighting God makes it easier to highlight the importance of God's word. God, by nature, is Sovereign, King, Lord. God is God. His authority must guide; God's word is authority. Jesus Christ was given authority. The words of Jesus matter. I like exposition because it should make it easier to see God's authority and wisdom. (Although it is possible to teach or preach verse-by-verse and not say much about God, his plan and his word.)*

-3- *Make sure that I am introduced to Jesus. We would see Jesus. What good is a sermon that does not make Jesus visible, known, personal, present.*

-4- *Always preach the gospel. Preaching that remains in the Jesus narratives and fails to mention the purpose of his coming fails. Preach the gospel. The gospel is power to save; the gospel is power to sustain and strengthen. The gospel must be brought into view, regardless of what text is preached. The point of Scripture is Jesus. The preacher who goes deeper than the gospel has gone too far. The truth always relates to what it means to be saved and stay saved.*

-5- *Help people respond to God. If the message is God-centered, and gospel-focused, people need to respond. There is always someone present who needs to respond. Tell people clearly how they should respond. Show the connection between knowledge and action, mind and will. That is why in preaching I like to call attention to the verbs, what God has done, how we can imitate him.*

Based on these points, what do today's texts say about God, his word, his plan, Jesus, the gospel of Jesus, and the way we live our lives?

GOD'S POWER IS THE BASIS OF MY HOPE

What God has provided: hopeful spiritual life through new birth, protection for the journey, an eternal inheritance (exposition of 1 Pet. 1:3-9). God is blessed (*eulogeo*, to adore) because of what he has done for his people, for me, for you.

According to his great mercy

Caused us to be born again to hope through Jesus' resurrection
Providing an inheritance that is protected
He guards us on the journey
Will reveal salvation in the last time
Protection in the midst of trials
Resulting in praise, honor and glory
Joy in the midst of difficulties

GOD'S POWER IS THE REASON I PERSEVERE

God's dominion in the midst of suffering (exposition of 1 Pet. 4:7-11). God supplies strength; our words and actions should speak about God.

God in control; this motivates and controls the way we pray
We keep on loving
We keep on sharing without grumbling
We keep on serving
Because God provides the strength
When we make clear that God provides the strength, he receives the glory through Jesus Christ

GOD'S POWER GUARANTEES SPIRITUAL VICTORY

God's dominion in the midst of temptation (exposition of 1 Pet. 5:8-11). God will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish, because we have been called to his eternal glory in Christ. Here is a different use of the word "glory." We are called to his glory.

Resistance
Be firm, even in the midst of suffering
God is one who calls
God is the one who can restore, confirm, strengthen and establish

These are not empty statements, because....

GOD'S POWER HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED AND CAN BE KNOWN

God's glory, visible in the grace and knowledge received through Jesus (exposition of 2 Pet. 3:14-18).

God is the one who reveals
God is patient
Error causes a loss of stability
Grow therefore in grace and knowledge

CONCLUSION

To him be glory and dominion. What does that mean to you? Why? What is the result in your life?

What difference will it make in your life this week? To him be glory and dominion.

What change could you/will you make this minute that will change the entire week ahead?

What do you want to do?

What do you want to say to God?

How can you give him glory? How can you recognize his dominion?