

## Sermon 3

**The Purpose of the Reformation: *Soli Deo Gloria***

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Text: Romans 11:36

*For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.*

## Introduction

“Glory to God” was the theme of the angelic host that announced Jesus’ birth to the shepherds in the field and of the heavenly throng whose songs John recorded in Revelation. What a privilege almost beyond imagination that the all-majestic God calls sinners to contemplate his glory and to echo the angels’ chorus in our own worship.”

**Today’s “take-home truth:” Ascriptive glory belongs to God—forever! When we grasp this truth, everything changes.**

**I. Ascriptive glory belongs to God . . .**

- A. It is part of the “two-beat rhythm” of worship.
  - 1. God displays his intrinsic glory . . .
  - 2. so that men and angels will declare his perfections.
- B. It encompasses everything from beginning to end.
  - 1. We must worship God because he created and sustains all things.
  - 2. We must worship God because he sovereignly works through all things.
  - 3. We must worship God because he ordained his own worship as the ultimate goal of all things.

Heidelberg Catechism:

Question 27 What do you understand by the providence of God?

Answer The almighty and ever present power of God by which God upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and

poverty—all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

Question 28    How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

Answer        We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love. For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.

## II. forever!

Westminster Smaller Catechism:

Question 1    What is the chief end of man?

Answer        Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

How shall we “use” this truth? In the light of God's glory, let us

1.     Stop living like we intend to stay here.
2.     Topple our narcissistic idols.
3.     Refuse to be distracted away from true worship.
4.     Finally determine to make our worship about God, not us.