

What is Your Opinion of God?

Revelation 19:1 (NKJV)

¹After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!”

- *The Greek word translated as “glory” is δόξα (doxa). In the New Testament it is used almost exclusively to mean “a state of being great and wonderful—‘greatness, glory.’” However, in classical Greek its primary meaning is “opinion, what one thinks,” so the relationship between glory and opinion is this: when our opinion of someone is very high our response is “glory!”*
- *When the great multitude in heaven sees that God is preparing to bring a complete end to Satan, sin, and rebellion and will bring justice to fulfillment their response will be: “Glory!” “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!” (Revelation 19:1).*
- *The first time the word “doxa” is used in the New Testament is in the context of Jesus’ temptations in the wilderness at the beginning of His ministry. “Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.” (Matthew 4:8).*
- *The devil was showing Jesus all the treasures and kingdoms of this world to entice Him with their glory and splendor. But Jesus’ opinion of their “glory” was very small, while His opinion of His Father reached to the Heavens.*
- *The devil was hoping Jesus’ opinion of the kingdoms of this world would be exalted above His opinion of His Heavenly Father and would result in Jesus worshipping the devil to obtain this glory. “And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”” (Matthew 4:9).*

Hebrews 11:24–26 (NKJV)

²⁴By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter,

²⁵choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

- *Moses’ opinion of Christ and all that God had to offer Him was of greater value than the riches and treasures in Egypt. So it was not a difficult choice for him to forsake all the pleasures and luxuries of living in a palace in Egypt for a nomadic life in the wilderness following God’s leading.*

Matthew 10:37–39 (NKJV)

³⁷He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

³⁸And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

³⁹He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

- *If we love anything or anyone more than God then it means our opinion of God is way too low!*
- *However, we do not love God more by loving others less, we love God more by loving God more!*
- *Legalism would have us believe that we need to love others less in order to love God more. Legalism would say, “You cannot enjoy this life or enjoy the relationships and blessings of this life too much because it will steal from your relationship with God.” But the reality is the more we love God the more we will love others and be able to enjoy the blessings of this life.*
- *If we view putting Christ first as a tremendous sacrifice we have overvalued the temporal and we have undervalued God.*
- *Just spending time daily, considering the temporal in relationship to the eternal, is a valuable spiritual discipline. It helps to bring balance and proper perspective and prepares for those times when we will experience losses in this life.*

Philippians 3:7–12 (NKJV)

⁷But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

⁸Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

⁹and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

¹⁰that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

¹¹if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

- *There are many rich treasures we can glean from Philippians, Chapter 3, but the one that stands out in regard to today’s message is that Paul’s opinion of Jesus was so high that all he was sacrificing to know Christ more he counted as nothing, “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”*

Psalm 19:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

- *This one verse if applied to our lives will help us develop a proper opinion of God and cause our hearts to cry out “Glory!” as we consider His greatness.*
- *Psalm 73 provides us with some helpful insights on how our opinion of God can vary greatly depending on what we are meditating on. If we have the wrong opinion of God it can severely affect the quality of our lives and our relationship with God.*

Psalm 73 (NKJV)

¹Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart.

- *The psalmist began with a key truth that will help us to have the correct opinion and evaluation of God: “Truly God is good!”*

²But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped.

³For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

⁴For there are no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm.

⁵They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like other men.

- *However, in the next verse the psalmist immediately introduced one of the main reasons he wrote this psalm. He had experienced a time in his life where he had become disillusioned, discouraged, and had almost stumbled.*
- *The source of his disillusion and discouragement was with God Himself and the question that plagued him was, “Why does God allow the wicked to prosper?”*

⁶Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them like a garment.

⁷Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish.

⁸They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily.

⁹They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth.

¹⁰Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full cup are drained by them.

¹¹And they say, “How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?”

¹²Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase in riches.

- *The more the psalmist reflected on the prosperity of the wicked the more he was overwhelmed. It appears the wicked were not punished or even stopped, but they were actually being rewarded and increasing in both ease and riches!*

¹³Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocence.

¹⁴For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning.

¹⁵If I had said, “I will speak thus,” Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children.

¹⁶When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me—

- *As the psalmist considered all the injustice and evil that is in the world he became increasingly disillusioned with God. His opinion of God continued to diminish and instead of shouting “Glory halleluiaah,” he basically said, “I have wasted my time trying to live a pure life. All I have gotten from it are a lot of trials and hardships.” “When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me.”*
- *The reason the psalmist’s opinion of God was suffering some serious problems was that he was evaluating both God and the circumstances of life using the wrong criteria and the wrong perspective.*

¹⁷Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end.

- *The turning point in the psalmist’s dilemma was getting the correct answers and having both his image and opinion of God corrected when he turned back to God and spent time with Him in the sanctuary of God.*

¹⁸Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.

¹⁹Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.

²⁰As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.

- *Now the psalmist understood that the apparent prosperity of the wicked was actually a judgment from God. The wicked continued to believe the lie that their wickedness would never be punished. “Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.”*

²¹Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind.

²²I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.

- *As the psalmist spent time before the Lord he understood the perfection of God’s timing and justice and he felt ashamed that he had thought so little of God during that time and he saw himself as a fool or an unreasoning animal.*

²³Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand.

²⁴You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.

²⁵Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.

- *However, not only was the psalmist’s vision of God’s justice and plans corrected, but he received a fresh and new vision of God’s grace, mercy, love,*

and patience as he said, “Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand.”

- *Then his vision of God’s faithfulness came into view. “You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.”*
- *His view and opinion of God changed when he realized how totally wonderful and awesome God is and that no one can be compared to Him. “Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.”*
- *At last there is a “Glory halleluiah” shout coming from the psalmist’s heart and reaching to the heavens as he spent time in God’s presence and received a clearer glimpse of His glory.*

²⁶My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

- *The psalmist now changed his opinion of himself and while he previously relied on his own understanding and strength, he now realized his own frailties and limitations. Instead of being discouraged he was filled with hope and expectation for the future because he understood that “God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” The word “forever” resounded clearly and joyfully.*

²⁷For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry.

- *The psalmist clearly understood that God is the righteous judge and He will bring about righteousness and justice.*
- *Those who have been wronged will receive justice.*
- *Those who have wronged will receive judgment.*
- *Those who have put their faith in Christ will receive righteousness.*

²⁸But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, That I may declare all Your works.

- *The psalm concludes with how wonderful it is to draw close to God and to put our trust in Him and to declare how wonderful He is. Our opinion of God is to reach to the Heavens and declare His glory!*