

TO GOD BELONGS THE GLORY.

Pastor: John Neal

Note From Bishop Michael Neal, As some know I have a detest for people that use the term "Mother Nature" for one there is no such thing and if anyone uses that term they are not giving credit to "God" I have even sent our local weather person a e-mail asking that he reframe from using "Mother nature" God will NOT! Share his Glory with another. The following is an article by my Father talking about one way this is done.

"Because when they Knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imagination, and their foolish heart was darkened, professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things," (Romans 1:21-23).

These scriptures are not talking about Atheist, or Satan worshippers, nor an out-right sinner, but about Believers "When they knew God" they glorified him not as God; neither were thankful. How long has it been since you thanked God for anything, for just waking you up this morning? People say we know him, but where is his praise, his glory?

"There was a king named Herod, that sat on his throne, arrayed in royal apparel, made an oration unto the people, and the people gave a shout, saying, "It is the voice of a God, and not a man: and immediately, the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory, and he was eaten of worms and died.

Our ability to talk, to eat, to drink, to even draw the next breath, comes from God. How many people today, like King Herod, refuse to give God the glory? He holds our life in His mighty hand; he can take it away in the twinkle of an eye. "All souls are mine, as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine, the soul that sinneth, it shall die," (Ezekiel 18: 4).

King Belshazzar was king over all Babylon, and he brought the vessels of God out of the house of God for his lords, their wives, and concubines, and drank wine from them, but when he saw the hand writing on the wall, he was filled with fear. Daniel told him what the hand

writing meant, “Thou hast praised the God of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone which seeth not, nor hear, nor knows, and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy way, hast thou not glorified.” Belshazzar was slain that very night, and Darius the Mede, became king in his place. To God belongs the glory. Are we praising the gods of gold, silver and men of renown, instead of the God in whose hand our breath is?

When will we realize, if ever, to God belongs the glory, and to him alone. The lust for power is consuming the world; it drives men to cheat, steal, to degrade their fellowman, anything to get what they want and where they want to go. But they fail to realize that Jesus has “all power in heaven and the earth.” The only power that man has is what God permits him to have.

Jesus is not concerned about our material things, our homes, our cars, nor the money we have accumulated over the years, everything we have, God has permitted us to have, it all belongs to Him. All of these things can be gone in an instant. All Jesus has to do is blow on them.

Hurricanes, floods, fires, drought, Jesus alone have control over all these things, which it seems people fail to realize, or forget. It is not Mother Nature, but Jesus alone. He is a jealous God; He will have no other God before him.

We heap more honor on Politician, movie actor, athletes, Rock Stars, than we do on the Creator of all the heaven and the earth. The one in whose hand our breath is. “They have changed the glory of the Incorruptible God, into an image made like corruptible man, and birds and four footed beast, and creeping things.”

God don't need our worldly material things, He owns mansions in heaven with gates of pearls, streets of pure gold, and the city walls are made of Jasper. If you call him Father, then where is his honor? Do you honor him through the way you live, here on this earth? Paul tells us “I beseech you therefore, brethren by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, Holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service,” (Romans 12:1). To God belongs the glory.

“No man can call Jesus Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.” He gets the glory

out of how we live our lives from day to day. How we act, how we talk, how we use his name, in our prayer, in our praise of him. Jesus does not want lip services; He wants our praise to come from the heart. Don't fool yourselves, God knows the difference. "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me," (St. Matthew 15: 8).

God dwells in the midst of praise. To God belongs the glory. Will He get praise from you or will He have to seek elsewhere? There is none of us worthy to stand in his presence, but by the Lamb of God, because of the blood that He shed for you and for me, He deemed us worthy. We are or were all sinners only saved by the Grace of God. "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast," (Eph. 2: 8-9).

"For all the Earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea," (Hab. 2: 14).