



Message Two – Wonderful Cross Pastor Mike Chapman

Last week's message introduced a very disturbing concept...*we are not as important as most of us thought we were!* But it is a concept, that if we could ever grasp it, it would help us make sense out of life.

The key passage from the Bible last week was the doxology of Paul at the end of Romans 11...

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. (NIV)

God's Chief Ambition is His Own Glory

God is all about **himself**.

We want it to be all about **us**, and herein is the problem.

Everything God created was to speak of his glory (Ephesians 1:3-14).

God Created Man to Reflect His Glory

Unlike any other creature, God gave man the gift of **freedom**.

Love is impossible without freedom.

God gave humans a brush, and man decided to paint himself in the center.

We painted God into a **corner**.

God Surprised Us!

He took the tragedy of our rebellion, and **leveraged** it for his own glory.

To leverage: *to position something to one's advantage; to exert power or influence for strategic advantage.*

God did what we would not expect.

Philippians 2:5-11, Though Jesus was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NLT)

How great is this...

Jesus was **God** who...

laid aside his divine **prerogatives**...

emptying himself into the form of a servant,
... becoming one of **us**, dying

...a **criminal's death** on the cross...therefore...

God **has exalted** him to the highest place
...and all this was to the **glory of God**...

the **Father**

In the cross, God staked his final claim to glory.