

Ichabod
1Samuel 4:10-22

Son of Phinehas, Ichabod - "the Glory is departed"; Israel given to Idolatry & priest given to immorality (no respect for their office)

Israel defeated in first battle with Philistines (4,000 killed - **1Samuel 4**) - People remembered a time when children of Israel had been victorious so decided to carry the Ark (lifetime of Joshua)

Soundly defeated - Hophni & Phinehas killed Ark captured **1Samuel 4:12-17**

The wife of Phinehas went into labor & gave birth - but was overcome with grief as she died, named son - Ichabod = "the glory is departed"

The Woman Understood Some Important Things:

What is true glory of Israel? What made it known in its time and caused it to be remembered even by us?

Size? very small; wealth - At this point very poor compared to Egypt; Scholars - Without the Bible we would hardly have known any of these -- From worldly standpoint none comparable to: Caesar, Plato, Socrates; Military?

Ancestry? Abraham had many descendants - Ishmael & Keturah

Their covenant at Sinai with God! "Peculiar People" – But, Ark captured, the Lord not among them, the glory departed!

She could see past the hypocrisy of men

Living in time when the Lord's name and wisdom were not highly regarded (even own husband immoral & violated the sacrifices)

The Glory of God not really effected by poor representation

Obsessed with the spiritual loss

Wasn't distracted by the loss of battle, husband, father-in-law nor by the joy of new son ("rejoice you have a son" - but named Ichabod which expressed her terrible feelings)

Do We Understand the True Glory of the Church Today?

We sometimes wish the church would be more glorious

If we could build a multi-million-dollar church, we could have one that people would drive to see - glorious?

Convert doctors, lawyers, professors; big contribution every week; big operation send money & preachers all over world – glorious?

Hire a Big name preacher - glorious?

Phinehas' wife knew the glory of Israel was not in Leaders

We should know that if preacher, elders are hypocrite, we can still attain to God's glory!

God's glory not really tarnished by hypocritical leaders

Only true glory that church has is the divine glory that comes through a pleasing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Glory of Church in being holy & blameless **Ephesians 5:25-27**

Doesn't matter how small, poor, small staff, meets in cave, if meet conditions, washed by the Blood, maturing, faithful!

Satan tries to draw attention away from Christ **2Corinthians 11:2-3**

We're constantly threatened by him:

In desire to be large we might compromise with worldliness

Cringe & hope preacher won't say much of subjects unpopular in this generation (divorce, dancing, modesty, caring for home)

Afraid we'll lose some men, so with our concern for men we sacrifice concern for the Lord (obeying Him & teach fellowship)

Glory of the church represented by a candlestick **Revelation 1:20**

Churches have candlestick in Heaven that Jesus moves among - Jesus sends messages **Revelation 2:2-5**

Ephesus warned, started great **Acts 19:18-19** (Burning books of arts)

They were continuing - But why? Tradition? Expectation of others? - Love grown cold, money **Revelation 2:5**

Once a church of Christ not always a church of Christ

When loyal to His laws, but when it ceases to be loyal its candlestick is removed and it is nothing!!! Glory gone!

True Glory of Individual Is Also in Christ

People value all but spiritual things - glory in physical beauty, strong, handsome, physical prowess, education, position (Junior over soph., President) clothes, Auto, everyone knows their name, athletic. **1Corinthians 2:2**

Temporary glory doesn't last - I was a "Who's Who" in school

Lasting glory comes in Jesus Christ **Galatians 6:14-15; Philemon 3**

Paul use to think temporal things glorious but now I consider them all rubbish; **Colossians 1:27** "...Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Are you more like Jesus or less - **2Corinthians 3:18**

Life, serving, love for the lost? - If Jesus isn't in you the glory has depart.

"We're a Church of Christ" - A sign, attend every Sunday, give, don't use Mechanical instrumental music ="Of course we're a church"

That's what Israel said when they went into battle - "We're the Lord's people we've got the Ark"; The Lord Said, "Take it Philistines these people don't deserve any more, take it!

The time may come when our songs, Lord's supper, money - nothing because we don't have the right attitude **Isaiah 1:10-17**

May come just enough to be accepted, tell everyone we are a church of Christ, lead a prayer, read a scripture... doesn't mean one thing unless our hearts are united to Christ.

Where is Our Glory?

Let it never be said that the church is **Ichabod** or of us personally - When we are convicted let us repent.

We may grow and as we strive to follow - some will choose to go elsewhere let's always test ourselves if right then stand!

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