

Preface

My Assumptions

Assumptions are risky things, but we all make them. Here's some assumptions behind FOR HIS GLORY.

God

I assume that God is good. *Always* good. There is nothing devious about Him. No hidden agenda. No insecurity that motivates Him to use power against others to protect Himself.

And God is love. It is not just that He loves, but that He *is* love. To love is to give and He is a giver. Look at the quality of the life He gave Adam and Eve in the Garden. That tells us so much about His will for man even today.

Look at the cross and what it cost God to express His love to man, even after we chose Satan over Him. And contemplate His persevering grace toward us even as we fail Him now. His love for us and acceptance of us is the same in the worst parts of our bad days as it is in the best parts of our good days.

God is never ever to be blamed for the condition of our world. Every bit of that is because of man's choices under Satan's influence. However, God has made a place where we can live freely in the ways that matter most while still in this world that is under Satan's dominion, and it is called "The Kingdom of God."

Man

Man is made in the image of God. Yes, "the image of God." I assume that there is something "of God" in every man, whether saint or outright heathen, that separates us from all else in creation.

We cannot help that we were predestined to inherit Adam and Eve's "fallen nature." We got into this mess because of their choice, but God has made a way of escape

through Jesus Christ. The choice is now man's - for those who hear the Gospel.

I assume that accepting responsibility for ourselves is the place to start, and that it requires countless daily choices for as long as we live.

FOR HIS GLORY talks about choice so much because it matters.

The Matthew 16:18 Church

The Church is comprised of those of all time and in every place who have life in Christ. It is spiritual in nature and is to showcase the superiority of God's rule in the world that Satan has devastated.

I write from the assumption that "the church" today is very different from what Jesus had in mind. One is primarily of God and the other of man.

For example, the Church that Jesus prayed for in John 17 is identified by its likeness to Him in character and in mission. Are we?

The authenticity of those who claim to be its members is verified by the degree to which they love others. Is practicing Jesus' "new commandment" of [John 13:34-35](#) an expectation today?

And the Church's success is measured by how well we give ourselves to God's purpose of making the Gospel known to our neighbors and to the ends of the earth.

How much does the Great Commission of [Mt. 28:16-20](#) shape our lives? Even the life and budget of your local church?

And Finally

My final assumptions are that there is hope if we repent and turn back to Him; that the path to new life includes many costly choices; and that the result is more than worth the cost.