

# Does God ever Boast?



It's a stretch to think that God might boast about something He made or some wonder He performed, but I think perhaps He did – in the right way, of course. He commended His own creative work in Genesis when He surveyed each day's work and said, "It is good." Let's look at Ephesians 3:9-10. Paul said that God had made him a minister of His grace,

"...to make plain to all men the meaning of that divine secret which he who created everything has kept hidden from the creation until now. The purpose is that all the angelic powers should now see the complex wisdom of God's plan being worked out through *the Church*, (italics mine) in conformity to that timeless purpose which he centred in Christ Jesus, our Lord." (The New Testament in Modern English, J.B. Phillips)

God wanted angelic powers to see His magnificent and complex wisdom and, wonder of wonders, He chose to show it through His Church. This is too fantastic to comprehend. He shows us – you and me – to powers and principalities and says, "There's an example of my best work – redemption." If I were God I think I'd give them tours through the Grand Canyon, the Swiss Alps, or Victoria Falls. Those are pretty spectacular sights, if you ask me.

Maybe my experience many years ago will help put this in perspective. Our daughter, Ellen, decided she would like to play the violin when she was in first grade. We were thrilled with her interest in music and especially the violin. But I wasn't prepared for the practice sessions. All thoughts of soft beautiful strains coming from this delicate instrument flew right out the window and our ears suffered through various unusual sounds.

The big night came. Twenty well-groomed first graders with tiny violins were going to perform. The school cafeteria filled up with parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters and Jim and I arrived early enough to get a front-row seat. The lights dimmed, bows were poised over well-tuned strings and the music began. I can only say that it was a cacophony of squeaks and squawks that vaguely resembled "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." However, I sat up proudly in my chair, nudged the lady next to me and pointed out my daughter. "She's mine," I said, as only a proud mother can.

Now, when I find it difficult to believe that God boasts about me, I remember that night long ago. The melody, or lack thereof, wasn't important. The little girl smiling ear-to-ear with a tiny violin tucked under her chin belonged to me. Try to imagine it now – the Father has directed the attention of angelic beings in your direction and He is proudly announcing, "She's mine!"

How wonderfully glorious is the Father's love for you! Paul's prayer for the Ephesians is my prayer for you (and me) today: "And I pray that you, firmly fixed in love yourselves, may be able to grasp (with all Christians) how wide and deep and long and high is the love of Christ – and to know for yourselves that love so far beyond our comprehension." (Ephesians 3:17-19, The New Testament in Modern English)



## To think about:

1. Contemplate God's love for you and resist Satan's lies about your worth.
2. Read Romans 5:5. Since God has poured out His love into your heart, find a way today to pour it out on someone else who is in need. Remember, it is an never-ending fountain; the more you pour out, the more He pours in.

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