

THE BENEFITS AND BLESSINGS OF KNOWING WE WERE CREATED TO GLORIFY GOD

I'm guessing that most of us have either **said ourselves**—or heard someone else say—“God works in ‘mysterious’ ways.” **Why** do we say that? I can't speak for you, but I sometimes **say** it—or at least **think it**—when I'm wondering “why” God **leads me to do** a certain thing at a certain time.

For example, **why** would God lead me to preach on something as thought-provoking as our need to **bring glory to God** during a week that I had limited time **to think**? Because “God works in mysterious ways!”

The reality, though, is a person would **never have enough** time in a **week**—or a **month** or even **a year**—to satisfactorily “chew on” what the Bible says about bringing **glory to God**. As noted last week, God **created us for the purpose of bringing glory** to Him so studying **what** that means...and **why** we should it...and **how** to do it is—in reality—a **life-time** pursuit.

In fact, I would go so far as to say that the **over-arching theme** of the **entire Bible** is “the glory of God!” Why don't I agree with those who suggest that **love** is the dominant theme of the Bible?

--Because God doesn't **love the devil—or fallen angels!**

Why don't I agree with those who suggest that **salvation** is the unifying theme of the Bible?

--Because **not everyone will be saved!**

But...in my opinion—you would be hard-pressed to find historical accounts—or teachings—in the Bible that don't somehow or another point back to the glory of God.

So how do you come up with a logically flowing outline for a series where the theme runs throughout the entire Bible? I don't know that you really can, but last week we started with looking at the **requirement** for us to bring glory to God.

We know it is **required** because God **declares it**. **Isaiah 43:7, 21** “Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him **for my glory**, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.” ²¹ This people have I **formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.**”

We also noted last week that we know we are **reluctant** to bring God glory based on the numerous times He tells us **not to bring glory to ourselves!** Lastly, we looked at how God **responds to those** who seek glory for themselves.

--Satan was cast out of heaven—and will someday be cast into the eternal lake of fire!

--In Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira wanted the praise of people for how generous they were—and God struck them both dead!

--And in Acts 12, an angel of the Lord killed King Herod because the Bible specifically states, “he gave not glory to God” (Acts 12:23).

Although God usually doesn't respond that way now, He still is not a “sharer” of His glory—and never will be! **Isaiah 42:8** “I am the Lord: that is my name: and **my glory will I not give to another**, neither my praise to graven images.”

This morning, we will be focusing on this thought: How does knowing that your purpose in life—bringing glory to God—help you? In other words, what are the **benefits and blessings** of knowing that?

So what are the benefits and blessings of knowing we were created to glorify God?

1. Purpose—and peace

Just out of curiosity, how many of you have ever read the book, “Peace with God” by Billy Graham? He starts the book like this: “You started on the Great Quest the moment you were born. It was many years perhaps before you realized it, before it became apparent that you were constantly searching—searching for something you never had—searching for something that was more important than anything in life.” (pg 3)

He later adds: “All mankind is traveling with you, for all mankind is on the same quest. All humanity is seeking the answers to the confusion, the moral sickness, the spiritual emptiness that oppresses the world. All mankind is crying out for guidance, for comfort, for peace.” (pg 4).

So how does knowing we were created to bring glory to God **result in the peace and purpose** that we all search for?

A. It shows us where peace and purpose are **not** found

Do people seek for peace and purpose in the things this world offers? They do, don't they? Here's proof:

--In 2021, total entertainment costs in the U.S.—to include paying for TV subscriptions—was \$133.5 B

--In 2023, \$89.8 billion was spent on alcohol

--And how would you even come up with a number that is spent annually **on possessions**, many of which are “toys” and not necessary for daily living?

Does entertainment...or alcohol...or possessions, provide peace or purpose in life? No; they don't! We know that **from experience**, but more importantly we know it from God's Word! God—through Solomon—told us in the book of Ecclesiastes that there is no lasting fulfillment...or peace...or purpose...or satisfaction in the things of this world! Please take your Bibles and turn to Ecclesiastes 2.

We can't spend a lot of time on this, but I do want to read through the first half of this chapter and highlight how Solomon went about trying to find fulfillment in life.

--In vss 1-2, Solomon pursues that which was fun and would make him laugh

--In vs 3, he indulges in wine—and yet not to the point of being inebriated. He “acquainted his heart with wisdom” meaning he had some safeguards to prevent him from doing foolish things

--In vss 4-6, he accomplished great things by building houses and planting vineyards and creating parks and pools to water his trees

--In the first part of vs 7, it says he had numerous people working for him; in the middle of the verse, it says he had great possessions of all kinds of animals—not just cattle.

--In the first part of vs 8, he acquired wealth; in the second half of the verse, he sought entertainment—or peace—through music.

--In vs 9, he tells of his fame.

--In vs 10, he states that whatever he wanted he acquired.

How satisfying were these things? They weren't—and he tells us that in vs 11!

All of it was empty...meaningless...non-satisfying. The fulfillment he sought was not found!

No one has found true fulfillment in things of this world—and **you won't find** it there either!

Prov 27:20 “Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.”

So knowing you were **created by God**—and for God's glory—should convince us that peace and purpose are not found in pursuing what this world offers.

B. It shows us where peace and purpose **are** found

Why are the eyes of man never satisfied? Because God has created us in such away that we will **only truly be satisfied** in knowing Him! To again quote Billy Graham: “Why are we empty? Because the Creator made us for Himself; and we shall never find completeness and fullness apart from fellowship with Him.” (pg 8).

Many have described it as a “God-shaped hole” in our heart that we try to fill with other things. The other things don't work! **Augustine** said it like this: “Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.” (<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/42572-thou-hast-made-us-for-thyself-o-lord-and-our>).

If God created us **for Himself**—and created us to bring glory to Him—**would it make sense** for us to be able to have peace and purpose **apart from** Him? No; it wouldn't! We would **not bring glory to God**—we would not seek to please Him...and praise Him...and promote Him—if we **could be satisfied** with something other than Him! But...we shouldn't trust in **what makes sense** to us—we should trust in **what God says!**

What does God say about **peace**? A lot, right? But in a nutshell, it is found **only in Him!**

1) There is a declared peace through faith. God pronounces us **right with Him**—and no longer His enemies—based on our faith in what Jesus’ death accomplished for us. **Romans 5:1** “Therefore being justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ:” It is not just declared peace, though!

2) There is a discernible peace felt in our hearts! Turn to Psalm 32; notice what it says in vs 1 “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.” “Blessed” here means “happy.” “Happy” is he whose transgression is forgiven.

Do you have that happiness...that joy...that peace in your heart that comes from knowing you have been forgiven by God...and that your sins are covered...and that God does not impute—“charge to your account”—your sins against Him? The peace of forgiveness is something we can **sense in our hearts**—not just know in our heads!

3) And there is the delightful peace of rest!

Isaiah 26:3 “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

Mt 11:28 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest.**”

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken unto you, **that in me ye might have peace.** In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

How does knowing God created us for His glory benefit us?

First, it provides... **1. Peace and purpose**

Second, it gives... **2. Perspective on trials**

How does us being created for God’s glory impact our perspective on trials?

--If it is **all about us**, trials make no sense! They confuse us...and sometimes cause us to doubt God’s love and wisdom because they don’t seem to help us at all! In fact, they are often **downright painful** at times!

--But if they are **about God**—and His glory—and if the reason He sends them is to make us more dependent on Him—and less dependent on ourselves—they make all the sense in the world!

Let’s turn now to II Corinthians 12 where we have Paul’s explanation as to **the reason**—and the **result**—of him having a “thorn in the flesh.”

--Vs 7. Paul plainly states that the reason for this unnamed “thorn in the flesh” was so he would not be exalted above measure—meaning not become proud.

--In vs 8, he says that he asked God three times to remove whatever the thorn was.

God’s response? **No! Why?** Because “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength (meaning the strength of God) is made perfect in weakness.”

In other words, ‘Your dependence on Me is better for you—more than you doing things on your own!’ Notice now Paul’s response in the middle of vs 9 and vs 10. Did you catch that? Paul took **pleasure** in hardships and trials—that’s what all these things were! **Why?** Because when he—in and of himself—was **weak**, Christ gave him strength. And who gets the glory for that? **God** does!

I’m not going to have you turn there, but notice what Paul says in **II Corinthians 4:16-18** “For which cause we faint not; but though our **outward man perish**, yet the **inward man is renewed day by day**.¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;¹⁸ While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Your outward man—your physical body—is deteriorating—that is a fact. But what about your **inward** man? Are you being “renewed day by day”? How does that happen?

--By looking on your affliction (trials) as being “light”—and only for a moment—because it is working good in you. But you also need to focus on the **invisible, eternal things**—not the visible, temporary things.

--And when we do that—and God gives us “grace to help in time of need”—others will give God glory because of what He is doing in us and through us!

What are the benefits of knowing that we are created by God and for His glory?

1. Peace and purpose in life 2. Perspective on trials **3. Preparation for heaven**

In what way does knowing we are created by God—and for His glory—prepare us for heaven?

A. Prepares us for entrance into heaven

How does knowing that we are created for God's glory prepare us **for entrance** into heaven?

If we were created for our glory—and not for God's glory—then we could **work our way to heaven**.

We would all be like the Pharisee in Luke 18: "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹²I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess."

But if there is **bragging** in heaven; heaven ceases to be heaven, right? **Isaiah 42:8** certainly applies to heaven: "I am the Lord: that is my name: and **my glory will I not give to another**, neither my praise to graven images." **I Corinthians 1:29** applies to heaven as well: "That no flesh should glory in His presence."

But...since we **are created to bring glory to God**, salvation from the penalty of our sins also has to point to the glory of God. And it does, doesn't it?

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the **gift of God**:

⁹ **Not of works**, lest any man should boast."

Titus 3:5 "**Not by works of righteousness** which we have done, but **according to His mercy He saved us...**"

I Peter 1:18-19 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹ **But with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"

B. Prepares us for the exaltation of heaven

What will we be doing in heaven—and on the new earth? Please keep in mind that much of what we think of as heaven is really a **description of the new Jerusalem**—a city that comes down from heaven to earth according to Revelation 21.

--Will we be able to do some of the things we enjoy here on earth like gardening or fishing?

Randy Alcorn in his book entitled, "Heaven" asks some interesting questions:

--Will we tell stories? Will there be art, drama, and entertainment?

--Will we play? Will there be sports? Will our pets be there?

--What will travel be like? Will we travel and explore in space?

Will we be bored? Regarding boredom, **Alcorn writes**: "Sadly, even among Christians, it's a prevalent myth that Heaven will be boring. Sometimes we can't envision anything beyond strumming a harp and polishing the streets of gold." (pg 409).

How does Alcorn answer the question of boredom? "Our belief that Heaven will be boring betrays a heresy—that God is boring. There's no greater nonsense. Our desire for pleasure and the experience of joy come directly from God's hand. He made our taste buds, adrenaline, sex drives, and the nerve endings that convey pleasure to our brains. Likewise, our imaginations and our capacity for joy and exhilaration were made by the very God we accuse of being boring. Are we so arrogant as to imagine that human beings came up with the idea of having fun?" (pg 410). More than a little food for thought, isn't there?

Although there are a number of "unknowns" when it comes to what we will be doing in heaven, one thing is certain—we will be expressing praise and worship to God—and we will not get "bored"—or tired—of doing it!

Please turn to Revelation 5 and follow along as I read, beginning with verse 6.

--Vs 6. Will the resurrected, glorified Christ still have some kind of physical evidence of His death? It sure seems that way!

--Now vs 7-9. Quite a description, isn't it?

--wast slain (but dead no longer); redeemed us to God by His blood

--Vs 10. Made us kings and priests that will reign on earth.

--Vs 11. Innumerable number of angels it seems

--Vs 12. The song

--Vs 13. Not just the angels: "And every creature..."

There will be praise and worship that we will all participate in and it will not be boring!

Why? Because He is worthy of worship—and worthy of praise!

And Ephesians 2:7 reminds us "That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

I take that to mean that we will understand better "in the ages to come" how worthy God is of our praise much more than we understand it now!

Robert Murray McCheyne, in his powerful poem "I Am Debtor," writes:

"When I stand before the throne, dressed in beauty not my own;

When I see Thee as Thou art, love Thee with unsinning heart;

Then, Lord, shall I fully know—not till then—how much I owe."

What about you? Do you honor and love and praise and worship Jesus now? If you're a child of God, you ought to be because that is what we will be doing "in the ages to come."

So, what is it that God wants ***us to do*** with what we've heard?

1. First, honestly answer this question—where are you looking for true peace and purpose in life?

--If you are looking for it in this world, you will not find it! Nobody has—and nobody will!

--Peace is found only in having a relationship with God—and purpose comes when we are convinced that we were created to bring glory and honor to Him!

2. Second, how do you view trials? If it's "all about you," they won't make sense.

But...if you view them as being opportunities for you to trust in God—and point others to God as He "props you up" during the trial—they make all the sense in the world!

3. Third, are you ready for heaven?

--If you are counting on you to get you there, you are seeking your own glory—and you won't get in!

You need to submit to God's way to be forgiven—and that is by receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior!

--But if you are a child of God, are you praising Him now for what He has done for you? We need to be doing that, don't we?