Why Am I Here?

(The Reason For Our Existence)

Selected Scriptures

3/19/06

What is my Purpose on Earth?

We were made for God:

- *Proverbs 16:4 - The LORD hath made all things for himself*
- *Isaiah 43:21 - This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.*
- *Colossians 1:16 … all things were created by him, and for him:*
  You were created by Jesus and for Jesus.

I. We are created and redeemed that we might KNOW God

- *1John 5:20 "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."*
- *Philippians 3:10 "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection…"*

II. We are created and redeemed that we might PLEASE God

- *Revelation 4:11 "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure* [for Thy desire] *they are and were created."*

III. We are created and redeemed that we might GLORIFY God

- *1Cor. 10:31 "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God"*

Why Am I Here?

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What is my Purpose on Earth?

The Christian's World-view as to the purpose of life, and of the reason for his existence is three fold:

We are on earth. . .

1. To know God
2. To please God
3. To glorify God

We were made for God:

Proverbs 16:4 The LORD hath made **all *things* for himself**

Isaiah 43:21 This people have I formed **for myself**; they shall shew forth my praise.

Romans 11:36 For of him, and through him, and **to him, *are* all things**: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

Hebrews 2:10 ¶ For it became him, **for whom *are* all things**, and by whom *are* all things,
in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

> ***Colossians 1:16 For by him*** [Christ] ***were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:***

"For" - because - giving a reason why Christ is the preeminent "firstborn." (v.15)

Jesus is Creator:

> *John 1:3 - "All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made."*
> *Eph. 3:9 - "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ."*
> *Heb. 1:2 - "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."*

Jesus created everything.

1) All beings and things "in heavens and in earth"
2) All that is material and immaterial
3) All laws, governing authorities and powers

"In Heaven" - Jesus created the angelic realm (the host of angels including Michael and Gabriel; the cherubim and seraphim, etc.)

"In earth" - everything from the Swiss Alps to the Islands of Hawaii; every kind of plant, tree, fruit, vegetable; every animal, fish, reptile and insect. And the crown of His creation - mankind - was made by and for Jesus Christ.
No wonder the elements obeyed His voice; and the demons trembled in His presence and respected Him. He is LORD of all, Creator of all!

It does not matter where it is (location); or what it is (essence); or how it is ("the powers that be") -- Jesus made it all.

The powers that be are ordained of God (Rom. 13:1) particularly of Jesus Christ!

"By ("dia") Him and for ("eis") him" - Christ is the beginner and benefactor of creation; He is its source and goal. He did it, and is to be glorified by it. He is Creation's author and finisher. He is the architect and owner!

You were created by Jesus and for Jesus.

He made you for Himself; to glorify Him, to live for Him.

I. We are created and redeemed that we might **KNOW** God

1Jo 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;
"That I may know Him" = means much more than knowing about Christ.
"To know" = to personally come to know through experience (an active knowledge)
As opposed to mere conceptual knowledge; to know in theory, to know in the brain.

I Cor. 13:12 - in Heaven we shall know Him even as we are also known.

Does He know you?? The most dreadful words any one could ever hear are the words: "I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Mt. 7:23)
Tit 1:16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate. *{reprobate: or, void of judgment}*

John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

"Abide" – the key verb in this context. The word "abide" means to remain or dwell (as in Jn. 14:2 where the noun form has the meaning of an abode or dwelling place).

The word means to stay with; to continue in close proximity (Mt. 26:38); to stay put and not move (Mt. 10:11); or to dwell in something (as in a house) (Acts 16:15).

What Jesus is saying is this: Stay connected with Me (not in relationship, for that issue is God's doing and it is settled, but in fellowship).

In other words, Jesus is saying: "Stay close." "Stick with Me; your abundant life depends on it."

Are we close to Jesus when we don't:
Talk to Him?
Think about Him?
Love Him?
Obey Him?

"Abide in Me and I in you" – the connection is a mutual one.

"The symbolism of the Vine and branches is similar to that of the head and the body: we have a living relationship to Christ and belong to Him" (Wiersbe, p. 355).

"Of itself, a branch is weak and useless. . . the branch cannot produce its own life; it must draw that life from the vine. . . [We as believers must] recognize our own weakness and confess our need for His strength" (Wiersbe, p. 355).

No branch can produce fruit if it is detached from the vine, and no Christian can who is detached from the fellowship of Christ.

The Blessings of Staying Close to the Lord Jesus Christ

a. *Remaining Close to Jesus* makes Fruit-Bearing POSSIBLE (v.4-5)

b. *Remaining Close to Jesus* makes Fruit-Bearing INCREASE (v.2-3)

c. *Remaining Close to Jesus* Avoids the Risk of Being Rendered USELESS (v.6)

d. *Remaining Close to Jesus* is the Secret to Receiving ANSWERS TO PRAYER (v.7)

e. *Remaining Close to Jesus* Results in God being GLORIFIED by your Fruitfulness (v.8a)

f. *Remaining Close to Jesus* Makes You a Real DISCIPLE (v.8b)

II. We are created and redeemed that we might PLEASE God

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure [for Thy desire] ***they are and were created.***

God created all things for himself.

Romans 11:36
For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

"The prayer of the upright is His delight" (Prov. 15:8)
"Pleasure" - will or desire"

God created man (and all of creation) to bring pleasure to Himself (We accomplish his by fulfilling His will - I Th. 5:18)

> Why please God? It's not that there is some motion in God that needs to be satisfied; but when we speak of pleasing God, we speak of fulfillment of His will and desire.

All creation exists presently ("they are" - present tense) to fulfill God's desires.
Make this your goal!
If the heavens declare God's glory (Ps. 19:1), why shouldn't God's people?
Cp. Triumphal Entry (Lk. 19:37-40) - "The stones would immediately cry out"

Ps. 50:23 - "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me."
Heb. 13:15 - "The sacrifice of praise"

Due to our selfish sin nature, we are prone to live for pleasure rather than to please God

1. Those who live for pleasure are self-centered
(all wrapped up in self)
Isaiah 47:8a Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me;
"Mark it down: There are only two cookies on the shelf – pleasing God or pleasing self." Must choose one.

2. Those who live for pleasure will not bear fruit
Luke 8:14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

3. Those who live for pleasure will not love God
2 Timothy 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

4. Those who live for pleasure make pleasure their master and themselves its servants
Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

5. Those who live for sin's pleasures will do so only for a short season
Hebrews 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Examples of pleasure seekers?

Those who live for selfish pleasure have lives that are …

- too Cluttered (jam-packed) to spend time with God in prayer & the Word

- too preoccupied (busy & therefore tired) to expend energy serving God in a ministry
- too lazy to be faithful to all regular church services

Are you a pleasure Seeker?

- You will not gain pleasure by seeking pleasure
- True pleasure is the by-product (result) of bringing God pleasure
  John 13:17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

God is not against us receiving pleasure; rather, He desires that we obtain <u>true</u> pleasure in His <u>time</u> and in His <u>way</u>.

True pleasure is from God:

Job 36:11 If they obey and serve *him*, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years **in <u>pleasures</u>**.
Psalms 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; **at thy right hand *there are* <u>pleasures</u>** for evermore.

Live for the "Well Done"

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, <u>Well</u> <u>done</u>, *<u>thou</u>* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Be a God-pleaser, not a people-pleaser:

*Galatians 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for **<u>if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.</u>***

*1 Thessalonians 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; **<u>not as pleasing men, but God</u>**, which trieth our hearts.*

What Pleases God?

The Work of His Son: Jesus Christ:
Isaiah 53:10 Yet it <u>pleased the LORD</u> to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand
Isaiah 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and <u>shall be satisfied</u>: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

1. **God is pleased by our adoption as children**
   Psalms 149:4 For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.
   Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

2. **God is pleased by our deep, reverential respect for Him**
   Psalms 147:11 The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

3. **God is pleased by our spiritual understanding of His plan**
   Ephesians 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

4. **God is pleased by the uprightness of heart**
   1 Chronicles 29:17 I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

5. **God is pleased by the public proclamation of His Gospel**
   (preaching pleases God)
   He is pleased to save men by preaching.
   1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

6. **God is pleased by obedience to parental authority**
   Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

7. **God is pleased by a practice which matches with our position**
   Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

8. **God is pleased by our obedience to His Word**
   1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

9. **God is pleased by every church member fulfilling his/her role in the Body**
   1 Corinthians 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

10. **God is pleased by our sacrificial giving**
    Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Our life should be about "Proving what is <u>acceptable</u> (well-pleasing) unto the Lord"

Ask yourself a Question:
Is God pleased with my conduct,
attitudes,
speech,
dress,
entertainment/amusements, music, TV,
my relationships,
my present service for Him?

III. We are created and redeemed that we might <u>GLORIFY</u> God

What is the Believer's overall guiding principle for determining how he/she should live?

1Co 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

The Ultimate Question is:
Will it <u>GLORIFY GOD</u>?

"The glory of God" - We ought to do everything so that God would shine; that He would be magnified; that His principles, precepts, and program would be credited, praised, and honored.

What does it mean to glorify God?
Does He shine (in the minds of men) as a result of my attitudes or actions.
Mt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

You were <u>created</u> to glorify God.
You were <u>saved</u> to glorify God.

The degree to which we glorify God reflects the degree to which we fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

**** The overruling principle that should guide our attitudes and actions must be: "Do all to the Glory of God"***

1. **The Principle of Glorifying God governs the <u>Christian Liberty</u> areas of our life**
("Whether therefore…")
Note the previous context of areas of liberty that believers are conscientious about for the sake of weaker brothers.

2. **The Principle of Glorifying God governs the <u>Mundane</u> areas of our life** ("eat or drink..")

3. **The Principle of Glorifying God governs <u>Each Individual</u> area of our life** ("Whatsoever ye do…")

"Whatsoever" - Includes every activity we do; every place we go; everything we partake of.

"Do <u>all</u>" - Nothing excluded; there ought not to be a distinction between the <u>secular</u> and the <u>sacred</u> for the Christian, for "all ground is holy ground."

--Does my <u>attitude</u> toward my children or spouse today glorify God?
--Are my <u>thoughts</u> glorifying God?
--Will this <u>decision</u> glorify God?
--Will this <u>purchase</u> glorify God?
--Is my <u>language</u> glorifying God?
--Are my <u>actions</u> glorifying God?

Should any area of our lives be "off limits" to God?

If not, then we should not mind if He has front row seats to every activity we do!

4. **The Principle of Glorifying God governs <u>Every</u> area of our life**
("Do All to the glory of God")

When making choices, which choices would bring the most glory to <u>God</u>?

God is glorified when we make . . .
--The <u>right</u> choice (a decision based on righteousness as revealed in Scripture)

--The <u>unselfish</u> choice (a decision based on how others, not merely self would be benefited)

--The difficult choice ((difficult due to the effort required; difficult due to the low popularity of the choice)
Is God glorified by divorce?
Is God glorified by mistreating your spouse or children?
Is God glorified by dishonesty?
Is God glorified by laziness?
Is God glorified by His people viewing wickedness? (on TV, pornography, etc.)
Is God glorified by gossip?
Is God glorified by poor performance on the job?

A question which should be continually popping up in our minds throughout every minute of every day is the question, "Does this glorify God?"

To glorify God, you must have a right view of self and a right view of God. You must have…

1) Humility – To humbly acknowledge Him as the giver of life, talents, opportunities, and blessings.
The proud do not glorify God. We cannot glorify self and God at the same time.

2) Dependency – In the power of the flesh, no one glorifies God. It is only as He evidently (in an obvious way) works in us and through us that He receives glory.
Such dependency involves trust; a moment-by-moment walk of faith. Phil. 4:13 – "I can do all things through Christ…"

--Who do you give the credit to for the successes of your life?
--How do you handle applause?
--Where do we want the spotlight to shine?
--Where do we want the credit to go?

Herod Agrippa was judged because in the moment of opportunity when he should have denied the people's acclaim of deity to him, he did not. "He gave not God the glory."

[NOTE: If the greatest thing we can do is glorify God, then the greatest sin is to steal His glory for ourselves]
Note: Acts 12:20-24-Acts 12:20-24

How can we glorify God?

1. Praising Him
   "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me" (Ps. 50:23)

2. Calling upon Him
   When trouble comes, God delivers us (when we call upon Him) so that we would glorify Him (Ps. 50:15 - "And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me."

3. Shining for Him
   By letting our light shine and doing good works, God will be glorified. Will others have a better view of God by the picture they see of His working in our lives? (Mt. 5:16 - *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*).