

GLORIFYING GOD – GOD’S MASTER PURPOSE

[INTRODUCTION ... WHY THIS SERIES?](#)

- What might the average person consider to be the greatest and grandest pursuit in life? What is the most noble purpose for which a man or woman can devote their life?
- Today I’m going to begin a series of messages to help us discover the most noble purpose for which we can live the remaining days of our life
- Not only can we live life for the most noble purpose, but we can live with an ever-increasing joy in this life, but continue to increase throughout the ages of eternity
- There’s a decision that you and I must make And we must make it at the beginning of each day and throughout each dayeven right here right now
- We must decide how we’re going to live, and who is going to get the glory Are we going to live for our own glory ... or are we going to live in a way that will bring honor and glory to Jesus Christ?

- John Piper is a brilliant preacher and writer And he has discovered the secret to living a joyful and prosperous Christian life

"Christ is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him. And when we are satisfied in Him, we are crucified to the world"

- We can only become most satisfied in Him when the Spirit of God enables us to get a glimpse of the far-surpassing glories of Jesus Christ
- When we see glimpses of God's glory just one glimpse we will be transformed

2 Corinthians 3:16-18

¹⁶But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

¹⁸And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- To the extent that we turn to the Lord To the extent that God removes the veil from our eyes ... to that extent shall we be transformed

- If there is little or no transformation occurring in our lives, we must ask ourselves why?
- If there is little joy in our lives, we must ask ourselves why?
- If the things of this world captivate our eyes and our hearts, we must ask ourselves why?
- Are we unable to see the glory of the Lord because there is a veil over our eyes?
- What might be the veil that is covering our eyes?
- What is the purpose for which we are living our lives?
- The Scripture verses just before tell us what we must do to behold the glory of God
- Freedom and joy are ours in increasing measure as we turn to the Lord As He removes the veil and opens our eyes
- We can all pursue different goals in the course of our lifetimes, but there is one that will last throughout the ages of eternity

PURPOSES MEN PURSUE

- The driving force behind many an individual's life is a quest for fame and fortune and power
- Others live to gain knowledge discover scientific mysteries for the betterment of mankind
- Some purpose to teach others or to write books so that others can learn
- We can live with the purpose of showing love and concern and compassion for others who are ill or underprivileged
- In some parts of the world, the greatest purpose is to fight for the cause of justice so there will be peace and security on the streets
- Selfishly, we can totally live for enjoyment and pleasure "Let's eat, drink, be merry and make love"
- Some purposes are noble Others are not
- Some purposes honor God, some do not
- Some purposes are holy and righteous, some purposes are unrighteous

- Some purposes are motivated by love, others by pride and greed
- We live in a world in which many are motivated by a desire for personal glory and honor
- Men pursue goals that bring them honor, fame, distinction.... In short, glory
- Professional athletes who rise to the top become wealthy, enjoy fame, and receive glory from their fans
- Olympic champions are honored and rewarded for their extraordinary physical accomplishments the glory that comes with the gold
- The rich and beautiful people want to be seen and admired, the top actors, artists, musicians want fame and applause
- The smartest engineers and scientists, the most skilled surgeons, the ingenious inventors, the authors whose works become classics
- All receive a measure of honor and glory for the purposes they have pursued

- Words like “astounding, beautiful, splendid, great, accomplished, talented, exceptional, magnificent and brilliant” are spoken and written about such people
- A person’s exceptional traits and accomplishments set them apart and constitute their glory in the eyes of society
- We say, “he gets the glory”
- Men and women can accomplish great things in the course of a lifetime
- Yet men and women are fallen and sinful, and their glory can be marred or lost by the evil they do

Bill Clinton lost honor in the eyes of most when his White House sexual escapades were exposed

*Martha Stewart no longer a model of gracious and elegant living ...
She's on her way to prison ...*

- Where are we choosing to live our lives for our own glory?
- How close to the throne of grace do we want to live?
- Where have we turned our eyes from beholding the glories of God?

- I pray that we may all see the glory of God more clearly and become so enthralled with Him that our greatest joys and satisfactions will be in Him
- I pray that we all choose to turn closer to Him
- When we become enthralled with Jesus Christ, when we are dazzled by His glory, He will be most glorified in our lives

A CELESTIAL PHENOMENA ILLUSTRATES THIS

- There is a celestial phenomenon that is dazzling to behold
- WHETHER YOU SEE IT'S GLORY IS ALL DETERMINED BY HOW CLOSE YOU ARE TO IT
- This phenomenon is called the Northern Lights or the Aurora Borealis
- Spectacular displays of luminous color and huge patterns of light drape the northernmost nighttime sky in splendor
- In 1619, Galileo witnessed a glowing light on the distant northern horizon and named this spectacular display the "aurora borealis" which is Latin for "dawn of the north"

- Galileo was amazed at these curtains of light, and people have been amazed by this celestial phenomenon for centuries
- Whether you can see it or not depends upon how close you are to it
- In uppermost Norway, you can see this spectacular display on almost every clear night
- In Alaska, perhaps 5 -10 times a month
- Along our Canadian border, perhaps 4 times a year
- In Mexico, maybe once a decade
- In Southern Mediterranean countries, perhaps once a century
- And at the Equator, perhaps once in 200 years
- Northern Lights originate from our sun. During large explosions and flares, huge quantities of solar particles are thrown out of the sun and into deep space
- These particles are so hot that they exist as plasma Their molecules have been ripped apart and are electrically charged

- They travel through space at tremendous speeds when they reach the earth's magnetic field, they are captured and guided toward either the north or south poles
- But these plasma clouds are deadly And they are stopped by our earth's atmosphere and collide with atmospheric gasses
- The collision between each solar particle and a molecule of gas emits energy in the form of a photon A light particle. When the energy reaches 100 million photons, we can see the aurora with our naked eye
- A well-known author after watching a beautiful aurora in its fullest splendor concluded, "No one can draw it ... no color can paint it, and no word can describe it in all its magnificence."
- The closer you are, the more you can behold the beauty and splendor of the aurora borealis
- And should you be close enough to be dazzled by the display of its glory, you're not going to be saying, "Look at me Aren't I spectacular?"

- That would be as absurd as traveling to see the Grand Canyon to enhance your self-esteem
- How absurd! You'd be telling others, "Look into the sky and see the wonder of it all."
- You will want others to see what you've seen!
- As you turn to the Lord and see greater glimpses of the glory of God, you're not going to say, "Look at me Aren't I great"
- You're going to want others to behold the glories of Christ

WHY DID GOD CREATE THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH?

- For a display of His own glory

Psalm 19:1-6

¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. ³There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

⁴Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,

and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. ⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

- The Northern Lights display their glory night after night The glory of this phenomenon is always there We just may be too distant to be able to see it
- There are other displays in God's celestial creation that we cannot see ... yet they are always there
- The Hubble Space Telescope sends back infrared images of faint galaxies perhaps 12 billion light years away that's a distance of 12 billion times 6 trillion miles
- Even within our galaxy that we can see there are stars that defy description, like Eta Carinae, (eight-a ca-ri-na) which is the largest star in our galaxy its' 10 billion miles wide the width of our solar system And it's 5 million times brighter than our sun
- The celestial heavens speak to men of the glory of God It comes forth clearly and consistently, yet a general revelation of the splendor of creation cannot bring sinful man to conversion

- But the revelation of God through His creation makes men highly accountable for their refusal to give God glory
- Even thunder and lightning strikes that set a forest ablaze are designed by God to result in his praise

Psalm 29:1-9

¹Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters. ⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. ⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

- Things celestial and things terrestrial exhibit the magnificence of our glorious Creator and are designed to result in praise to Him

- John Piper writes

"The created universe is all about glory. The deepest longing of the human heart and the deepest meaning of heaven and earth are summed up in this: the glory of God. The universe was made to show it, and we were made to see it and savor it. Nothing less will do."

"God's glory is uppermost in his own affections. In everything He does, His purpose is to preserve and display that glory. To say His glory is uppermost in his affections means that he puts a greater value on it than on anything else. He delights in His glory above all things."

- If we chose to think and act like this, we would be selfish idolaters, but because God is God, He is free to do whatever He pleases
- Everything that God chooses to do is for the display of His own glory so that men can see His glory and give Him praise

WHY DID GOD CREATE MAN?

- To know what our greatest purpose in life is, we must know why we were created in the first place
- While the universe exhibits countless testimonies of the glories of its Creator, God in creating man crowned him with glory and honor in a manner exceeding that of material creation

Psalm 8

¹O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

²Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, ⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, ⁸the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

- God created man for one reason and one reason only

Isaiah 43:6-7

⁶I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷everyone who is called by my name, WHOM I CREATED FOR MY GLORY, whom I formed and made.”

- We have been created for God’s glory
- You and I have been created for one purpose and one purpose only to bring God glory ... to give Him praise and honor and to speak and sing and tell others of the glory of God
- The Westminster Catechism, written more than 300 years ago, begins with the question: “What is man’s primary purpose?”
- And the answer is this: “Man’s primary purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.”
- Before Jesus went to the cross, He prayed what is known as his high priestly prayer

John 17:24

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

- GOD'S MASTER PURPOSE THROUGHOUT THE AGES HAS BEEN TO MANIFEST HIS GLORY AND TO RECEIVE PRAISE AND HONOR AND ADORATION FOR HIS GLORY
- This is God's one great theme in the entire universe ... one master purpose for everything that God does
- God's one purpose behind everything that He has ever done, and one purpose behind everything that He will ever do is to display His own glory for the praise of His glory
- Our greatest purpose and our most noble purpose is to declare the glories of God
- But first we must experience the glory of God We must be in a place to see something of His glory
- We can live in northernmost Norway and see the Northern Lights on any clear night or we can live near the equator distant from the aurora borealis

- We can dwell so far from the Northern Lights and only catch a few glimpses of God's glory in a lifetime
- **Our greatest and most noble purpose in life is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever**
- The magnificent displays of the aurora borealis can be seen each night
- Whether we see it or not depends upon where we choose to dwell
- God's glory will always emanate from His being we've been created to enjoy his glory ... to praise Him for His glory ... to reflect His glory in the darkness of this world And to tell others of the glories of Jesus Christ

Closing prayer: John Piper's, "Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ," page 23