

Most successful endeavors or plans are a result of knowing exactly what the objective of said endeavor or plan is. As we begin a new year as a church and as individual Christians we need to know what our objective is for this year. We need to know what type of goal we are working towards. We need to know our purpose. This morning, I am excited to begin a year long sermon series on the idea of Glorifying God. You might be asking what that actually means...to glorify God. For definitions sake, to glorify God is to honor, praise, and revere Him and to recognize His greatness. Why should we do that? How do we even do that? Prayerfully we will answer those questions this morning as we open up the Word of God. And Lord willing we will get even more specific with how we glorify God in many different aspects of our lives as a collective church and as individuals (family, marriage, youth, hobbies, etc) as we go throughout this year.

I. Our purpose in life is to Glorify God.

- A. All people were created for the purpose of glorifying God and Israel was specifically chosen for this purpose, as well.
 - 1. Israel was chosen as a people of God for the glory of God. **(Isa. 43:5-7)**
 - 2. Israel failed to glorify God time and time again, but God was going to restore them for His glory. **(Ezek. 36:22,23)**
 - 3. Israel recognized that their restoration was for the glory of God. **(Psa. 79:8,9)**
- B. The purpose of Christianity is to glorify God in all things, as well.
 - 1. The glorifying and the glories of God should be the main focus of the Christian. **(Eph. 3:14ff)**
 - 2. Peter says that in all things we must focus on God being glorified. **(I Peter 4:11)**
 - 3. Even in matters of conscience we must do all things to the glory of God. **(I Cor. 10:31)**
- C. Sin is a failure to glorify God.
 - 1. When we sin we fail to glorify God. **(Rom. 3:23)**
 - 2. Unfortunately, at some point we will fail to live up to our purpose.
 - 3. We will focus on self and fail to give God His proper glory and honor.
 - 4. But just like Israel, our return to God will glorify His name. We shouldn't let a momentary failure lead us into a pattern of failure to glorify God because then we fail to accomplish our purpose on this earth.

II. God is worthy to be glorified.

- A. God is worthy to be glorified because He created and sustains us.
 - 1. Through Him we were created and exist. We would have no life without Him. **(Rev. 4:11)**
 - 2. **“In Him we live and move and exist” (Acts 17:28)**
 - 3. God is most powerful. He knows what has happened, what is happening, and what will happen. No one else can make the same claim truthfully. **(Isa. 44:6,7)**
- B. God is worthy to be glorified because through Him comes every single blessing of this life. **(James 1:17)**
 - 1. Without God we would not have our basic necessities.
 - 2. Without God we would not have the ability of free will.
 - 3. Without God we would not have the ability to enjoy love, happiness, and hope.
 - 4. Without God we would not know true love.
 - 5. Without God our lives would be most dreadful and most depressing.
- C. God is worthy to be glorified because He gave the ultimate sacrifice for us. **(John 3:16)**
 - 1. That problem of sin has created a major obstacle in our relationship with God. **(Our iniquities have separated us from God, Isa. 59:2)**
 - 2. However, God loved us so much to send His only Son as a sacrifice for our sin.
 - 3. Because of God we can have hope of heaven in the next life.
 - 4. Because of God we can have the forgiveness of our sins and be joined back to Him.
 - 5. There is no greater reason to honor and glorify God than His precious grace that he has shown towards us.

III. We glorify God through our faithful obedience.

- A. Humility plays a key role in our glorification of God.
 1. No greater challenge is there to our glorification of God than our selfish desires. Those desires hinder us from seeing the worthiness of God for our honor and glory.
 2. Our sin keeps us from glorifying God because sin is a result of selfish desires. **(James 1:14,15)**
 3. We must humble ourselves to recognize God's worthiness.
 4. It takes a concerted effort to practice what is said in **Psalm 115:1**, "**Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory because of your lovingkindness, because of your truth.**"
- B. Our purpose of glorifying God is fulfilled when we submit to His standard and live righteously.
 1. Just knowing who God is does not honor and glorify Him. The Gentiles knew of God but they did not honor Him as being such through their actions. **(Rom. 1:21)**
 2. The end of the matter for Solomon was that all men should fear God and keep His commandments. **(Eccl. 12:13)**
 3. Jesus, while speaking to His apostles, said that His Father would be glorified through their bearing of righteous fruit. **(John 15:7,8)**
 4. Peter says that we glorify God by doing all things according to His will. **(I Peter 4:11)**
 5. We might suffer for doing things according to His will, but even in that God will be glorified. **(I Peter 4:16)**
 6. Faithful obedience stretches to all aspects of our lives from the local church to our lives as individual Christians.
 7. Our goal through this series is to examine the many different aspects of our lives where we must glorify God. We will look at God's pattern for how we should live our lives as Christians and how we can give God the absolute most glory. He is worthy!

The glorification of God is our absolute purpose in this life. We can achieve that purpose through faithful obedience, by fearing God, and keeping His commandments. Our goal this year is to be taught and reminded about how we can glorify God in our lives. May He help us to always seek out to glorify Him. He is more than worthy of our praise, honor, and glorification. May all the glory be given unto His great and holy name!