

Created for God's Glory #1

Rev. 4:11 – “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

Many times, the words “please” and “pleasure” are used in the KJV, not meaning happiness, contentment, or fun, but to denote God’s sovereignty – he does whatever he pleases, whatever he wants, and no one can stop him. So in Rev. 4:11, the word “pleasure” means “will” - it was because of his own determinative will that he created everything. He had his own purposes for the creation, and those purposes shall be fulfilled.

A good example of this usage (will, as opposed to a feeling of pleasure) is

Isa. 53:10 – “Yet it pleased the LORD 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.”

It is apparent that God was not pleased in the sense of enjoyment, but that it was his will to bruise the Son in crucifixion, because it would bring about the redemption of a people for his glory.

God has a purpose, not just for the overall history of the world and its nations, but also a purpose for creating each of us. So what is our purpose? Many people in the world think their purpose is simply physical survival. Others don’t have to worry about that so much, so they see their purpose is to enjoy life, to get more things, to do enjoyable things and go interesting places, or to gain and exercise power over others; to feel good and avoid pain.

Is your purpose in life the same as God’s purpose for creating you? Should we think God’s intended purpose for us is to drink beer and play video games, watch football, get more stuff, climb the social ladder, or make a million dollars? It should be obvious that none of these can be God’s reason for bringing us into this world. They are all superficial and temporary. In the end, it doesn’t matter if you did those things at all – no real, significant good comes of any of them. God’s purpose for us must surely be more significant and eternal than these.

The major questions of philosophy are “Why am I here? Is there a purpose in life? What is the point of human existence? What is the chief good?” As Christians, we know that **we exist because God willed it, and that he therefore has a definite reason for each of us to exist, and that the highest purpose in our lives should be to fulfill that purpose, thereby bringing him glory.** We want to please God.

We obviously cannot even begin to please God until we come to Christ for redemption. God gives us spiritual life, faith, repentance, and a new heart. We no longer belong to ourselves, but to him that purchased us with the blood of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Here are two major questions: 1. What does God do for his own pleasure? and 2. What can we do to please God?

What does God do for his own pleasure?

- From Rev. 4:11 above, it is apparent that **he created all things** “for his pleasure”, that is, because it was his will to do so. We cannot think that God would do all that for no reason at all, or on a whim. He had a purpose for it, and nothing that has taken place, including the Fall, has taken him by surprise. In fact, Rev. 13:8 refers to “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”. In the mind of God, he foresaw not only the Fall of mankind, but the redemption that would be required, and even the means (the crucifixion of his Son) by which it would occur.

Why did God create a world in which he knew men would sin, and that it would require the death of his Son? We cannot presume to know all the reasons, but it is sufficient for us to know that it allows for the eternal display of his attributes of grace, mercy, love, judgment, and holiness.

- The creation itself brings glory to God, from the heavenly universe down to the mysteries of atoms, electrons, quarks, and everything in between. Ps. 19:1 But unregenerate man looks at all the glories of creation and sees nothing but evolution by accident, whereby life stumbles upwards.
- It pleased God to create man in his own image, to have dominion over his earthly creation,
Ps. 8:3-6 – “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou

visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:"

- The creation of man and woman was to glorify God, not just in the marriage covenant, but for the creation of a "godly seed" (Mal. 2:15), and also as a picture of the relationship between God and man (Christ and his church, Eph. 5:31-32).
- It has been his pleasure **to reveal himself** to his creation, both in a general way (by observing the creation, an ingrained sense of morality, and man's conscience), and by his Word (speaking through prophets, and eventually by the Bible). Jn. 1:1-14, Heb. 11:1-2 Amos 3:7
- **He uses men and nations** to bring glory to his name, even those who hate him, like Pharaoh.
 - Ex. 6:7 – "And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."
 - Ex. 14:4 – "And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. ..."
 - Isa. 10:5-6, 12 – "O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. ... Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks."
- The overarching theme of both OT and NT is **the kingdom of God**. It is his will to be the King over all the earth, not just as its Creator, Ruler, and Judge, but to reign over a willing people who are redeemed from sin and who love him freely, and will experience all the goodness of his holy nature, eternally.
 - Ps. 47:7-8 – "For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness."
 - Zech. 14:9 – "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one."
 - Mt. 4:23 – "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people."
 - Dan. 4:34-35 – (Nebuchadnezzar) "... and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation. And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"
 - Lk. 12:32 – "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."
 - Ps. 149:4 – "For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation."
 - Zeph. 3:17 – "The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing."
- Besides these things, we can be sure that he does many things that we either cannot, or will never understand because they are so far above us.
 - Isa. 55:8-11 – "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."