

Created for God's Glory #2

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.”

In the last lesson I made this statement – **the highest purpose in our lives should be to fulfill God's purpose, thereby bringing him glory.** God has a purpose for Christians in general, but he also has a unique purpose for each one of us.

God's general purposes are those that apply to all of his elect believers, like

- Believe on Christ and confess him as your Lord to others.
- Read and study his Word so we can know what he has revealed about himself, about man, sin and righteousness, faith, etc.
- Share the gospel with the purpose of bringing others into salvation.
- Obey Jesus' commandments.
- Submit to the Word and be led by the Spirit, and live a life of holiness.
- Resist the devil and his temptations to sin. If you do sin, confess it, forsake it, ask God's forgiveness through Christ, and move on.
- Be a living, active, and responsible part of a local church that is true to the Word.
- Etc.

There are also purposes that are mostly general, though not for every single person, like bearing and raising godly children. But God has a more specific purpose for each individual, even non-Christians. For example, I believe that his purpose for J. S. Bach was to glorify God as a Christian composer, that Itzhak Perlman was born to play the violin, and that George S. Patton would be a great military general. God's purposes are not always positive - of Pharaoh it says in Ex. 9:16 – “And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.”

But what about us “nobodies”? We believe that **God has a purpose for us, but how do we know what it is?**

God doesn't often tell us directly, “This is your purpose in life”, like he did with Jeremiah in Jer. 1. Usually it becomes plain over time, and his ultimate purpose for us is probably only seen after we die. For the believer, it obviously will not be something contrary to his Word, in a worthless or sinful occupation like being a professional gambler, drug dealer, or prostitute. But it is also a religious delusion to think that God calls only some believers to “full-time Christian service” (like being a pastor or missionary). Actually, he calls every one of us to full-time Christian service from the moment we are saved, by being a faithful and confessing Christian in our sphere of influence, 24/7.

For those of you who do not yet have a real occupation - God's purpose for your life will agree with the talents, abilities, and inclinations that you have, as reinforced by proper training. God gives some people natural abilities in mechanics, the arts, languages, analytics, interpersonal communications, etc. If you are a person who learns by hands-on practice, you probably shouldn't be an accountant. If you can learn well by reading and study, you might be more inclined to computer programming, law, or such. If you enjoy dealing with people, perhaps you are cut out for sales or customer service. God doesn't call you to be or do something that you will hate, or to do something so poorly that you cannot make a living. He wants us to live and serve him with joy.

Your vocation, or occupation, itself can be a means of bringing glory to God, if that kind of work glorifies God and serves your neighbor. You may wonder, “How can my work glorify God?” It depends on how you do it. Some people are only working for the paycheck; their work is a drudgery. Others are consumed with the desire to advance, either because of pride, or the desire for wealth. You will be more content and satisfied, and see real fruit in your life (both physical and spiritual), if you can learn to live for Christ in your daily work, whatever it is.

Col. 3:23-24 – “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance.”

How can we fulfill God's purpose for our lives, if we do not know what that purpose is?

His purposes for us, both intermediate and ultimate, are beyond our understanding. Isa 55:8-11 ("my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD") But the keys to eventually knowing or fulfilling those ways are found in the previous verses:

Isa. 55:6-7 – "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him when he is near; Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

- Seek him
- Call on him in prayer
- Forsake your own way
- Return to God (in repentance, but also continuing to seek, call, and forsake)

If we do these things, we may be sure that his word for our lives will not return to him void (verse 11).

While God leads us and moves us in the way he chooses, he does not tell us what his ultimate purpose for us is. Many famous composers, authors, or historical figures who now are seen as great, died in poverty and almost unknown. We also may seem to be insignificant, but perhaps God will have used us in ways that we cannot see in this life.

God will gradually reveal his purpose for you as you seek him, and live faithfully day by day. If you are faithful in a little, he will bring more your way, until by the time you are older you can look back and realize that God was leading you even when you didn't realize it. By his providence, he directs your steps.

Prov. 16:9 – "A man's heart deviseth his way, but the LORD directeth his steps."

If you want to discover and enter into God's ultimate purpose for your life, you won't do it by being a whining, grumbling complainer at work, or a boozier, or a gossip. You won't discover God's will on a bar stool. The only way I know is to live as close as you can to a fully consecrated life, obeying God to the best of your knowledge, and then keeping your eyes open for opportunities that he lays in your path. They won't have signs on them, saying "This is my will for you", but if you are sincerely following Christ and praying to know and obey his will, the Spirit will lead you in the right way.

Ps. 37:23 – "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way."

As you read, study, meditate on, and obey the Bible, you will be enlightened, and know the way you should go.

Ps. 119:105 – "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." A lamp shows you where to put your feet next, it doesn't show you everything around you, or what is in the next ten miles.

Isa. 30:21 – "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

In the Westminster Shorter Catechism, the first question is "**What is the chief end of man?**" The answer is **to glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever**. This describes the purpose of redeemed mankind in general, so whatever God's purpose is for your specific and individual life, will tend toward that result. If what you are doing does not glorify him, then it may be your purpose in life, but not his. Our goal should be to live each day seeking to know and do his will to the best of our knowledge, and to be attentive to his leadings. If we do this, then in the end we will be able to look back and see that God was, in fact, leading us to fulfill his purpose for our lives.

Ps. 37:5 – "Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

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