

The Purpose in Spirituality -- The Glory of God

- A. One of the most profound and important questions ever asked has to do with the meaning and purpose of life. The Bible reminds us that life is short (James 4:13-15), it is not measured by possessions (Luke 12:13-21), and that its meaning and purpose is living for the glory of God.
- B. The basic reason why the believer should be a spiritual person is that God would be glorified -- because He is worthy. Too often we think of spirituality in terms of what it will bring us. We must give this up.

I. The Biblical Meaning of the Glory of God.

A. The recognition of our Father's plan.

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. John 14:13

And we know that all things work together for good ... that he (Jesus Christ) might be the firstborn among many brethren. Rom 8:28,29

... That in all things he might have the preeminence. Col 1:18

Comment: The one great plan of our Father is to glorify Jesus Christ. This is the meaning behind all creation and history.

B. The affirmations of our Father's plan.

1. When here the Lord Jesus knew of the Father's plan, affirmed that He was # 1, and that the Father would be glorified in His own glory.
2. The entire purpose of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Savior. Jn 16:14
3. The angels were created and commissioned to worship Jesus Christ. Heb 1:6

II. The Importance of Living for the Glory of God.

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. I Cor 6:19,20

Comment: This should be the goal of our life. We work so hard for lesser values!

III. The Provision for Living for the Glory of God.

A. The provision of salvation.

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made use accepted in the beloved. Eph 1:5,6

Comment: In the new birth we were given the freedom and ability to glorify God.

B. The provision of providence.

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will, that we should be to the praise of his glory ... Eph 1:11,12

Comment: God has and will arrange life -- so we can glorify the Savior!

C. The provision of the Holy Spirit.

In whom ... ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, unto the praise of his glory. Eph 1:13,14

Comment: God dwells in us that we might live meaningfully for His glory.

III. The Explanation of How to Live for the Glory of God.

A. Good works will glorify God.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matt 5:16

Comment: Good works are those that are characterized by God's attributes: love, truth, and righteousness. When we choose to live and tell the truth, to be loving and kind, and do what is right -- God is glorified.

B. Righteousness will glorify God.

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God. Phil 1:11

Comment: Righteousness is simply doing what is right. How clear it is -- that doing what is right is the basis for life, fruitfulness, and fulfillment.

C. Praise and Thanksgiving will glorify God.

There met him ten men that were lepers ... cleansed ... one turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God ... giving him thanks... where are the nine? Luke 17:12-19

Comment: How rarely we are characterized by these virtues! We must learn to reject our self-centeredness and think, pray, and work more for God and His glory.

IV. Warnings Regarding the Glory of God.

A. All forms of sin will limit, hinder, and deny the glory of God. Rom 3:23

B. Refusal to obey God's word will suppress and deny the glory of God. Jer 13:9-11

C. Covetousness will lead one to suppress and deny the glory of God. Luke 12:13-15

D. Self-centeredness will result in suppressing and denying the glory of God. Luke 12:16-21

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