

We were made for God. We were created to know, enjoy and glorify Him.

- *all things were created by him and for him (Colossians 1:16b)*
- *for from him and through him and to him are all things. to him be the glory forever (Romans 11:36)*
- *this is eternal life: that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent (John 17:3)*
- *and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength (Mark 12:30)*
- *so whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31)*
- *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11)*
- *Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips praise you (Psalm 63:3)*

These sentences contain both God's purpose in creating us and the reason we exist. God is the most valuable thing in existence, thus we should value him above all things in everything that we do. Indeed we were created to do that very thing – to know and praise Him. This is not a burden, because in knowing and treasuring God, we find our souls deepest satisfaction. Everybody wins.

Yet humanity has exchanged the glory of God for lesser pleasures.

All of us have failed to glorify God as we should.

- *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)*
- *for although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (Romans 1:21-23)*
- *be appalled, O heavens, at this...my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water. (Jeremiah 2:12-13)*

We have not valued God above all, and thus have not valued Him at all. We have sought our satisfaction in other things, and treated them as more valuable than God, which is the essence of idolatry. This misvaluation has thrown all of our sensibilities off. We no longer value God, people or creation as we should. This distortion in us is called sin and has caused untold damage in the world.

God is right in condemning all who have dismissed Him and abandoned their purpose. All of us are subject to God's just condemnation.

- *the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23a)*
- *all of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath (Ephesians 2:3)*
- *they will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might (2 Thessalonians 1:9)*

We have all dishonored the glory of God by preferring other things above Him and by our ingratitude, distrust and disobedience. God is just in casting us away from the eternal enjoyment of his glory. Our failure to acknowledge, obey and glorify God earns us eternal condemnation.

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Yet God, being rich in mercy, sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to rescue us from sin and reconcile us to Himself.

- *God shows his love for us in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)*
- *I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve, then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time (1 Corinthians 15:3-6)*
- *Jesus Christ our Lord was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God (Romans 4:5)*
- *Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18)*
- *But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4-5)*
- *in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them...for our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:19-21)*
- *we are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24)*
- *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)*

Jesus lived the perfect life we could not. He died the death that was required for our sin. He opened the gates of eternal life and joy.

The benefits purchased by the death of Christ belong to those who repent and trust Him.

- *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)*
- *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is a gift of God, not as a result of works, so that no one may boast (Ephesians 2:8-9)*
- *to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12)*
- *repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out (Acts 3:19)*

“Repent” means to turn from the deceitful promises of sin. “Faith” means being satisfied with all that God promises to be for us in Jesus. We do not earn our salvation. It is a free gift.

Does this make sense to you? What then should you do?

Turn from the deceitful promises of sin and call upon Jesus to save you from the guilt and punishment of sin. “All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13). Then trust that God will begin to work out His life in you to make you into the kind of person He created you to be. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. (2 Peter 1:3).

What does this mean for your life?

The heart-cry of those who belong to God is summed up in Isaiah 26:8:

Yes Lord, walking in the way of Your Truth, we wait eagerly for You, for Your name and Your renown is the desire of our souls. Notice that it is life-encompassing. Every faculty of the person is engaged.

The mind: walking in the way of your truth. We would strongly suggest that you read your Bible often to know the truth of who God is and who you are.

The affections: your name and your renown are the desire of our souls. The Christian life is one of seeking our joy in the presence of God.

The will: walking in the way of your truth. We begin to live a new kind of life, reflecting his priorities, loving God and others.

The community: we wait for you...the desire of our souls. The Christian life is a team sport. We highly encourage you to join a bible-believing church and begin to seek God together with those who have trusted in Christ.