

FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

Text: John 17:1-5

The greatest question that has been put forth, pondered on and philosophized by every generation of mankind is “What is the meaning of life?” There are many widely varied schools of thought on the subject.

- **Existentialism:** Believes life has no inherent meaning and individuals must create their own purpose through their choices and actions.
- **Nihilism:** Argues that life is without objective meaning, purpose, or intrinsic value.
- **Stoicism:** Suggests that a meaningful life is achieved by living in accordance with nature, focusing on what is within one’s control, and cultivating inner peace.
- **Absurdism:** Posits that life is fundamentally irrational and without inherent meaning, but one should embrace this absurdity and live life to the fullest
- **Buddhism:** Focuses on overcoming suffering and achieving enlightenment by following the Noble Eightfold Path, which includes wisdom, ethical conduct, and mental discipline.
- **Hedonism:** Proposes that the meaning of life is to maximize pleasure and minimize pain.

On a particular episode of a tv sitcom “Everybody loves Raymond”, Ray’s daughter Allie asks him the question “Why did God put us here?” He couldn’t answer her question, and the entire episode is about every member of the family’s attempt to come up with an answer that would satisfy her, but they all came up empty. If someone were to ask you “What’s the meaning of life?” or “Why did God put us here?” could you answer those questions? Let me be even more specific: Do you know why God put you here? While the family is humorously trying to come up with something that will pass as plausible, Ray’s mother starts thumbing through the Bible randomly reading verses out loud, to which Ray’s wife Debra shouts out “Religious scholars spend their entire lives trying to answer this question. You’re not just going to flip through the Bible and find the meaning of life.” I disagree with Debra. The meaning of life is found in the Bible. It’s in the verses we just read.

John 17 is the prayer that Jesus prayed on his last night on earth just before his arrest. He says to his Father in prayer that he had glorified him on the earth. There it is the meaning of life for every human being that has ever been born. The meaning of life is to glorify God while we’re here on the earth. If we don’t then we’ve missed our whole reason for being here.

We were created for the glory of God. Man was made in the image of God so that we would reflect God's image back to him like a mirror. Our purpose was to rule over the creation while being in right relationship with God and our creativity and work was to bring glory to him. But sin entered the race and ruined our image like a wrecked car...it's still a car but it's original appearance and function have been damaged. That's why Jesus told Nicodemus "Ye must be born again" because the new birth regenerates our dead spirit and restores the image of God inside us. Our spirit is made alive, our soul is being saved, and our bodies will be glorified in the future.

Let me ask everyone in this room two serious questions. Are you saved? The next one is equally as serious. Do you know what you are here for? Moses was born to be the deliverer. David was born to be the king of Israel. Jeremiah was born to be a prophet to the nations and John was born to be the forerunner of the Messiah. Samson was born to be a judge and a Nazarite all the days of his life. Esther was born to be queen and pleaded for the cause of her people. Mary of Bethany was born to be the anointer of the body of Christ for his burial.

The phrase "the glory of God" refers to the physical manifestation of God's presence. When the cloud filled the tabernacle and the temple...that was the glory of God. When a cloudy pillar went before Israel in the wilderness by day and fire by night...that was the glory of God. When Mount Sinai was on fire and quaked with smoke going up like a furnace with thunder and lightning...that was the glory of God. When Ezekiel saw a vision of God's throne coming out of heaven with the four living creatures surrounding it...that was a vision of God's glory. The point I'm making is; the glory of God is when God can be seen. When Jesus said "I have glorified you on the earth" he was saying "you have been seen on earth through me". **John 14:8-9** Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

Glory is the visible expression of something invisible. Light in this room is the glory of electricity. A flower is the glory of a planted seed. We will have lived for the glory of God if others can see God because of us! To many people the point of being a Christian is to be "a good person" to others it's avoiding sin, to others it's to be faithful to church and all those things are commendable but the reason you were born is to glorify God. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *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.

- **God is glorified when our character reflects his character** – A reputation is what people think we are. Character is what we really are. Sometimes we focus so much on the dos and the don'ts that we forget the Christ is as much concerned with what

we are as what we do. Blessed are the poor in spirit, the meek, the peacemakers, the pure in heart teaches that what we are is important. Every believer has two natures, flesh and Spirit. The Spirit wants to glorify God, and the flesh wants to satisfy self. We have warfare going on in us all the time because both natures want control of this body. Every Christian has a responsibility to renew their mind in the word of God, assemble with the saints regularly, and have fellowship with Christ so that they grow in grace. **2 Peter 1:2-8** Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Even though we don't like it or want to go through it, tribulations shape our character so that God can be seen through us - **Romans 5:3-5** And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

- **God is glorified when we do his will** – The will of God for every child of God is twofold...the general will of God for all his children which is contained in the scriptures (example: **1 Thessalonians 5:18** In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.) The specific will of God which is revealed through the Spirit - **Romans 12:1-2** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. You only find out the specific will of God when you give yourself to him. God will never make you serve him against your will, that's why you must present your body a living sacrifice. It's telling God that he can do with you whatever he pleases. **1 Corinthians 10:31** Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. When we come down to die, could we say like Jesus "I have glorified you on the earth"? Meaning that because we lived, God was seen.