

1. **Introduction:** Everyone yearns for purpose in life. We want life to be meaningful and significant where sufferings and frustrations as well as successes and joy are worthwhile. Will we be able to look back late in life and see that it has all been worthwhile?
2. **Purpose in Life:** Is there life purpose that transcends the daily grind of mere existence, a purpose under which all our strategies and tactics would fit?
 - The surprising answer is yes! It is no surprise to find that people have always asked about purpose in life, all being anxious to understand life's meaning, its significance.
 - The biblical answer to the question of purpose is stated best by the answer to the first question of the Westminster Shorter Catechism.
3. **WSC Q 1:** "*What is the chief end (that is, the chief purpose) of man?*" Answer: "*Man's chief end (or purpose) is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.*"
 - There we have it, glorifying and enjoying God is the overarching purpose for every human life, the end for which God created people. The question is, how do we do that?
 - What does it mean to glorify and enjoy God? Are they the same thing or are they different? How does a person glorify God and what does it mean to enjoy God?
 - Glorifying God and enjoying God are related but different things. Enjoying God is primarily private and internal while glorifying Him involves internal recognition of His worthiness and external offering evidence to others of God's glory.
 - Two questions. (1.) How does one glorify God? (2.) How does one enjoy God?
4. **What Does it Mean to Glorify and Enjoy God:** An authentic Christian life is a life aimed at glorifying and enjoying God in all circumstances.
 - How do we do that? What is God's glory? What does it mean to glorify Him? Does our glorifying God add to God's glory? If not, what does glorifying God do?
 - We all enjoy God's good gifts, but is that enjoying God? To truly enjoy God, shouldn't we enjoy His Person independent of gifts given or withheld?
 - Glorifying God means recognizing His greatness, goodness and love, submitting to His will and living in a way consistent with His character. It means aligning thoughts, words, and actions with His commandments, seeking to honor Him in everything we do.
 - In other words, to glorify Him: "***Fear (respect) God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man***" (Eccl 12:13b).
5. **God's Glory:** The biblical concept of God's glory has many facets with related and inter-dependent meanings. The Hebrew word most often translated as glory is *kabod* which means 'heaviness.' In general, *kabod* refers to significance or worthiness.
 - *Kabod* figuratively signifies such things as wealth, splendor, honor, power, intensity, profoundness, and dignity of position. An English equivalent is weight when used in expressions like 'the weight of the argument.'
 - God at times uses the medium of clouds and smoke to convey a sense of His presence, a visible symbol of heaven coming down to earth (Ex 40, 1Kings 8).

- When Isaiah saw the glory of the Lord, the Temple filled with smoke (Is 6:1-8). When the priests put the Ark of the Covenant into the Most Holy Place in Solomon's Temple, a cloud (signifying glory) filled the Temple (1Kings 8:6-11). The cloud of God's power and glory made it difficult for the priests to do their duties.
 - On Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:26-20), while God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, the mountain was covered in smoke and fire, with thunder and lightning together with a loud trumpet blast. Full of fear and trembling, the people of Israel gathered at the foot of the mountain. Moses ascended to receive the law.
 - God spoke the Ten Commandments to all the Israelites, but the experience was so intense the people asked Moses to receive the rest of the laws on their behalf. Moses then spent 40 days and nights on the mountain, receiving the stone tablets with the commandments and other laws.
 - John says, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (Jn 1:1,14)."*
 - Heb 1:3 says Christ is, *"the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being."* Jesus' life on earth manifested many facets of God's glory.
 - In the sinless life of Jesus, we see the glory of God's holiness. In His healing ministry, we see the glory of God's compassion and power. In His death, there is the glory of both God's justice and His mercy.
 - Jesus vicarious death on the cross satisfied God's justice by paying in full the death penalty due sins. In that same act, we see mercy that Jesus bore the wrath of God due our sins on our behalf.
 - The glory of God's sovereign power is manifest in Jesus' resurrection from the dead.
 - The glory of God's sovereign rule over all of heaven and earth will be revealed when Christ returns in glory on the last day. On that day, *"every tongue (will) confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"* (Phil 2:11).
 - 2Cor 3:18 says, *"we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."*
 - God's glory is displayed in many wonderful passages of Scripture. When we examine these passages, we notice examples of God's glory can be in one of two categories – His intrinsic glory or the glory ascribed to Him.
6. **God's Intrinsic Glory** God's intrinsic glory is the totality of who He is, the perfection and infinite significance of all His attributes.
- God's intrinsic glory includes His preeminence in all things, His sovereign power, self-existence, awesome brightness, truth, and grace. We can neither add anything to God's intrinsic glory or take anything away from His intrinsic glory.

- God’s intrinsic glory is infinite, complete, permanent, and inseparable from his being. Acts 7:2 says He is the **“God of glory”**.
 - God’s intrinsic glory has been and is manifested in many ways, but the most complete manifestation is through our Lord Jesus Christ. Heb 1:3: He is, **“the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being.”**
 - Christ came filled with truth and grace and in His earthly life many facets of God’s glory are clearly seen. In His sinless life we see holiness. In His atoning death we see mercy and justice. In His resurrection we see sovereign power.
 - The glory of God is overwhelming. Sinful men recoil from His presence. Think of Isaiah’s experience of awe and dread from his vision of God’s throne room (Is 6).
 - Christ displayed this overwhelming presence on the night He was betrayed. Likely thinking He would fear them, a crowd came to arrest Him in Gethsemane.
 - When the crowd discovered He had no fear of them and was totally aware of His own majesty and power, they fell back in awe.
 - Peter (an experienced fisherman) fished all night without success. Jesus told him to try again. That time, Peter pulled in a great haul of fish. He realized the implications of Jesus’ power and said to Him, **“Depart from me, for I am a sinful man”** (Lk 5:8).
 - God’s intrinsic glory is the totality of his being, the perfection and infinite significance of all his attributes. We can neither add to or subtract from God’s intrinsic glory.
7. **Glorifying God:** So, what does it mean, for a person to glorify God?
- What are we to do to properly acknowledge God’s glory, thereby glorifying him?
 - 1Chron 16:29 says, **“ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name. Bring an offering and come before him; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.”**
 - Paul says in Romans 12:1, **Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.**
 - To glorify God, we must first know about His power and majesty, the splendor of His holiness, His worthiness of praise and obedience, His matchless grace and mercy.
 - We might think of acknowledging and glorifying God through praise and worship.
 - That is a true and right thing to do, but there is much more. In His prayer in John 17:3, Jesus says to the Father, **“I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do”**. This gives a new perspective on glorifying God.
 - Paul gives a wide view when he says, **“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God”** (1Cor 10:31).
 - It seems that whatever we do in life – worship, work, care for family, and all the ordinary things of life – all can be done to God’s glory!
 - Fundamentally, we are to honor God, acknowledging that He is who He says He is, has done what He says He has done, and will do what He says he will do. We are to live in a manner consistent with His character.

- By this we glorify God (honor His intrinsic glory). Unfortunately, there are many things we might do that are not glorifying to God. How are we to know which is which?
8. **WSC Q 2:** *“What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?”*
 Answer: *“The Word of God, which is contained in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.”*
- The whole Bible provides information showing how to live as God intends.
9. **Enjoying God:** What does it mean to “enjoy God forever”? There is a twofold meaning: The first applies to this life, the second to life to come.
- Enjoying God in this life can only begin when we are regenerated and adopted into God’s family. When He regenerates us, the Holy Spirit begins to dwell within us, transforming us step-by-step into a likeness of Christ.
 - Through the Spirit’s application to us of the benefits of Christ’s life and death, we come to love God, to realize what He has done for us, to willingly submit to and enjoy Him.
 - To enjoy God requires acknowledging Him as the chief good in our life and as the sovereign of the universe. Being unwilling to acknowledge God as sovereign, unregenerate people cannot enjoy God, because they do not know him.
 - The continued presence of sin in the lives of the regenerate means they can have only an imperfect enjoyment of God during their life on earth. However, the desire to please God is a sign of regeneration.
 - A believer’s enjoyment of God increases as they become more like Christ.
 - When we are with God in heaven, then we will truly and fully enjoy God having been divinely qualified through God’s glorious grace.
 - Since we cannot grasp the whole Bible at once, we need an organizing principle.
 - WSC Q 3 points the way: *“What do the Scriptures principally teach?”* That is, what are the dominant themes of Scripture? Answer: *“The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.”*
 - The two topics, *“What we are to believe concerning God”* and *“what duty he requires of us”* are essential to understanding how we are to live to please God.
 - When studying the Bible, organizing what we learn in these two categories will help fix God’s truth in our mind. We intend to look specifically at what we are to do to as we glorify God by living life as he intends it to be lived.
 - We glorify God by believing Him, by confessing and repenting sin, through gaining wisdom, practicing and defending His truth, being fruitful, walking cheerfully and lovingly, and praising him.