

Session One: God's Insistence on His own Glory is the Best Possible News!



The Purposes of God? The Why of His Actions.

Question	Read	Less than 6 words
1. Why does God bring salvation to us?	Psalm 106:6-8 1 John 2:12	
2. Why does God choose to bring us salvation?	Ephesians 1:1-6; 11-14	
3. Why does God restrain His anger from us?	Isaiah 48:9-11	
4. Why does God not give up on His people?	1 Samuel 12:20-22	
5. Why was God committed to the Nation of Israel?	Ezekiel 36:22-23; 32, 36	
6. Why does God forgive?	Isaiah 43:25 Psalm 25:11	
7. Why does God provide for us and lead us in righteousness?	Psalm 23:1-3	
8. Why does God rescue and secure us?	Psalm 31:1-4 Psalm 79:9	
9. What is the purpose and motivation of our good works?	Matthew 5:13-16	
10. Why are we called to serve?	1 Peter 4:10-11	

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Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in My eyes, and honoured, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life.

⁵Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you.

⁶I will say to the north, give up, and to the south, do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷everyone who is called by My name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made."

"No matter how much we examine the motives of God, we will never arrive at an answer which is not love." 1 John 4:8

Why did God bring into existence a people whom He could regard as precious, honoured and loved (v4)?

Verse 7 ...everyone who is called by My name, whom I formed and made.

The constant battle – the desire to make ourselves the centre of the universe **versus** the glory of God.



Genesis 3... You can be like God...

Genesis 11: 4 "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us **make a name for ourselves.**"

The Central truth and focus is the glory of God....



"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of **the glory of the Lord** as the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14



Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to **the glory of God** (1 Corinthians 10:31).



Let your light so shine among men that they may see your good deeds and **give glory to your Father** in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

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Our First Big Question: What is the glory of God?

He created us to display His glory - that His glory might be known and praised.

Our Second Big Question: How do we bring glory to God?

Creation is **NOT** God's glory – Psalm 19:1 – Creation **declares** and **proclaims** His glory.

God is perfection - Perfect and complete Holiness - Perfect and complete righteousness - Perfect and complete Love...

God is love and the persons of the Trinity love in fullness - The most securing thing.

What is the most securing practical thing that parents can do for their children?

Our desire to seek our own glory is inherently idolatrous and selfish; this is the essence of sin. Paul describes this in Romans 1:22-23:



*"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."*

This exchange that robs God of His glory is the very heart of sin. We want the glory that is God's alone.

The Bible tells us that God does all things for the sake of His own glory.

As the only perfect being, all that God does is perfect. He perfectly seeks to display His perfection. His glory is His perfect goodness – we must not settle for a weak substitute. We must not try to understand God's glory through our deficient lens

"God can rest in nothing other than Himself and cannot be satisfied with anything less than Himself. He has no alternative but to seek His own honour." Herman Bavinck

God is the one perfect being. As such, He cannot look beyond Himself for anything or anyone greater.



"...when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself" (Hebrews 6:13).

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When God makes a promise, He can invoke no greater name than His own.

When a human glorifies himself, he robs others of joy.

When God displays and exhibits His glory, He shares joy with His creatures and wholeness with all creation. Without the knowledge of God's glory, we would be robbed of true joy.

There is only One Being who exists in the universe who is ultimate in glory, ultimate in greatness, ultimate in beauty, ultimate in perfection, and He is all of these things in everything He is and everything He does.

There is never an inconsistency.

There is never a rival to His glory.

Everything comes from Him, everything that is, continues to exist through Him, and everything is made for Him



*For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. **To Him be glory forever.** Amen. (Romans 11:36).*

All true life - identity, meaning, purpose, contentment, hope... is found in Him.

To live in the light of God's glory is to recapture our humanity, because this is how every human being was designed to live.



David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly.

“Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come from You, and You rule over all. In Your hand are power and might, and in Your hand, it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise Your glorious name.” (1 Chronicles 29:10–13)

Next time: We cannot add to God's glory. We can live in it; be an expression of it, display it, proclaim it – BUT only through the indwelling Christ.