

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 6



*Blessing and glory and
wisdom and thanksgiving and
honor and power and might
be to our God
forever and ever! Amen.*

THE PURPOSE OF MAN

*Scripture Texts: Isaiah 43:7, Isaiah 43:21; Revelation 4:11; Psalm 8:3-6;
Psalm 24:1*

We have learned of the creation of the world with its complex organization, its elements, its many living plants and animals, with man as the highest creation of all. Why did God make man? What is our purpose here? Is it the pleasing of our desires, the drawing to ourselves some of the earth's substance, the gaining of notice from other human beings, drifting with no effort, keeping busy, or helping others? Some may think this last is the best purpose any life can serve. No, it is included in our duty, but the essential purpose of our lives is much higher than that.

MEMORY VERSE: *This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.—Isaiah 43:21*

You Are Not Your Own

Isaiah 43:7 God said of man, **I have created him for my glory.** To the Maker belongs the right of choosing the use for His product. Man is to be part of the glory of God, to add to His glory.

Since God made man, man was made for God. The greatest thing we can ever do is to be a glory and praise to Him and to give Him pleasure. This is first, a matter of BEING, then, of DOING. If we are a glory to God in our hearts, acts will follow that will glorify Him. Each person is a soul with a life to live for God. Each has a work to do that no other can do.

Dare we say, "It is my life; I will live it as I please?" If one makes no profession of Christianity, is he not bound by the Christian standard? Does his nonprofession excuse his life? God made everyone for Himself. To withhold service from Him is to not only to steal from Him, but to cheat yourself. When we thwart our highest purpose, we crush hope for our greatest happiness.

We Owe God Glory and Praise

Isaiah 43:21 **This people have I formed for myself.** The intent of God was that people were for Himself. He owns us. When Satan introduced sin to people, he was trespassing on God's territory. He was stealing what was not his. When we yield any of ourselves or our time to serve another than God, we are stealing from God. We are here to **shew forth His praise**, which is giving Him glory. The glory is worth; the praise is acknowledgment of that worth. Glory is light shining out; praise is the reflection of that light shining back upon the source.

Is this primarily the fruit of our lips? Do we fulfill this purpose by speaking of God's goodness, testifying of His faithfulness, or praising Him in song and prayer? Certainly, this is part of it, but SPEAKING His glory is not enough. We are to BE His glory. Being part of the body of Christ, saints are part of the glory of God. Insofar as one is controlled by the Spirit of God and thus living the life of God in the world, he is adding to the glory of God. To the extent he allows the light of God to shine through him, he is showing forth the praise of God.

How to Give Glory and Praise

Revelation 4:11 All creation was created to please God, to bring Him pleasure. Since we were made for that, we fulfill out highest possibility when we give Him the greatest pleasure of which we are capable.

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A sinful person cannot do this any more than a disconnected blub can give light. We must be like God made us to be. The sin must be washed away. We must be made new, alive, born again. Only Jesus can do this in us. To be able to bring glory to God, we must (1) yield to Him and love Him supremely, (2) die out to all that is contrary to God, drop selfish ambitions and worldly pursuits, (3) continue to obey God, live for Him as taught by the Word, and be led by the Spirit. **Thou art worthy, O Lord.**

The Wonder of Wonders

Psalm 8:3-6 All nature glorifies God. **The heavens declare the glory of God (Psalm 19:1).** The vast distances, the huge sizes of bodies in the heavens are beyond our comprehension. They move in perfect order and timing. The wonder of wonders is that a God Who made and rules these with His fingers, gives thought to man, only a speck of dust compared to them. He made us a **little lower than the angels** and placed the rest of the earth under out dominion. He gave such great **glory and honour** to us as to call us sons and daughters. What horrible sin it is when we despise the honor and cast it away for sin's degradation.

Psalm 24:1 **The earth is the Lords...and they that dwell therein.** The earth, its natural riches, and all people belong to the Lord. All exist to serve His interests. All but man seem to be doing so. The seasons with their beauties and benefits unfold on time. The birds sing Gods praises. All things follow the laws of their being. Only man has failed, but God provided a remedy for his failure when He visited him in the form of Jesus Christ. If we will but yield to Him, He will lift us back up to our appointed place.

What Pleases God?

In **Genesis** we read how God desired companionship. He created man so He could have someone to commune with **in the cool of the day (Genesis 3:8)**. Jesus recreated man to be His bride, His companion, to have someone to talk to and share with all the day.

Do we wish to please God but wonder how to accomplish it? The wish pleases God, but it cannot endure with no fulfillment. Read the Bible; almost every page tells ways to please Him. Pray to Him; both we and the Lord receive pleasure from heartfelt prayer. First, we ARE. Then, we DO. But we cannot do these things, or even want to please God, by trying in our own strength. **Philippians 2:13** tells us that God provides the power in us **to will and to do of his good pleasure**. Let us settle it clearly in our hearts that no effort of ours can please God unless it proceeds from the working of God within us.

Not only leaders, but every saint brings glory and praise to God. It is our privilege to be parents, teachers, preachers, missionaries, prayer warriors, encouragers, janitors, or helpers of any kind for Him. There we can fulfill the purpose for which we are here.

JUST A THOUGHT

**The same consecration – ALL – is required of each,
regardless of the sphere of service.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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