

Sunday Celebration (December 7, 2008)
"For the Glory of God"

Welcome to Lakeview (Pt. 4)

INTRO

The Question "WHY?" ... When we ask this question, we're trying to figure out How the People, Pleasures, Pains, and Various Events of Our Lives Make Sense

Our Belief IN GOD and ABOUT GOD Has Everything to Do with Answering These "WHY" Questions

- *If There Is No God*
 - The Philosophical Consequences of Atheism
 - **Life without Meaning**
 - **A Philosophy of Relativism is Understandable** - Since there is no higher being or ultimate accountability right and wrong is guided by other principles:
- *If There is a God*
 - ... Then What is This God Like? How is He Involved in Planet Earth?

John 9:1-4

The Disciples are asking WHY? ... (Why is this man's life this way?)

Is it Because of Some Sin of Mine?

Is it Because of the Sin of Another?

This Situation Exists FOR THE GLORY OF GOD to be SEEN

John 11:4 But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." [Reference to Lazarus death]

1 Peter 4:11 — in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Cor 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Is 43:7 "Everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for my glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made."

Is: 49:3 "You are my servant Israel, in whom I will show my glory"

“ A deep and instructive principle lies in these words. They surely throw some light on that great question, — the origin of evil. God has thought fit to allow evil to exist, in order that He may have a platform for showing His mercy, grace, and compassion. If man had never fallen, there would have been no opportunity of showing Divine mercy. But, by permitting evil, mysterious as it seems, God’s works of grace, mercy and wisdom in saving sinners, have been wonderfully manifested to all His creatures.” **J.C. Ryle**, “Expository Thoughts on John”, vol 2, p. 159

“ Tucked away within the assertion that the world is filled with pointless evil is a hidden premise, namely, that if evil appears pointless to me, then it must be pointless. ... Just because you can’t see or imagine a good reason why God might allow something to happen doesn’t mean there can’t be one. Again we see lurking within supposedly hard-nosed skepticism an enormous faith in one’s own cognitive faculties. If our minds can’t plumb the depths of the universe for good answers to suffering, well, then, there can’t be any!” **Timothy Keller**, “The Reason for God”, p. 23

- Does Your Theology Seek to Rescue God from Doing Things that are not MAN-CENTERED and in the Limited Scope of Man’s Insights, BENEFICIAL?

“ I press on this because I believe that if we are God-centered simply because we consciously or unconsciously believe God is man-centered, then our God-centeredness is in reality man-centeredness. Teaching God’s God-centeredness forces this issue of whether we treasure God because of his excellence or mainly because he endorses ours.” **John Piper**, [message at the Evangelical Theological Society]

Col 1:16-18 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Do I Orient All things around ME and then bring my interpretation of whether these events are "Good or Bad"?

Consider Joseph & Job

What’s interesting about these stories is that Neither of Them End in an ACCUSATION of GOD— They Both End in AWE of God and Eager to Worship Him!!

– When Suffering Has Fully Run Its Course, we will be in a Better Posture to Critique It’s Purpose...

“ The sentences in the book of Providence are sometimes long, and you must read a great way before you understand the meaning.” **Matthew Henry** [quoted by J.C. Ryle in John vol 2, p.159]

THIS INFORMS EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES

Why Do I Do What I’m About to Do Next in My Life? For the Glory of God — Because I believe My Ultimate Purpose — and therefore my ultimate Joy & Pleasure & Fulfillment— lies in My Life Bringing Glory to God

- ... Why Would Christians embrace Martyrdom?
- ... Why Should We Embrace & Endure Suffering?
- ... Why Should We Work at a Difficult Marriage rather than Seeking an Easier One?

“ Your views of what is right will be based on what you think the purpose of marriage is. If you think marriage is mainly for the rearing of children to benefit the whole society, then you will make divorce very difficult. If you think the purpose of marriage is more primarily for the happiness and emotional fulfillment of the adults who enter it, you will make divorce much easier. ... The divorce laws you think “work” will depend on prior beliefs about what it means to be happy and fully human.” **Timothy Keller**, “The Reason for God”, p. 17-18

– What if you believe that Marriage is Mainly for the Glory of God? What if you believe that your Ultimate Fulfillment and Happiness is found in Glorifying God?

If Jesus Had Believed that Personal Comfort was More Fulfilling Than Suffering for the glory of God, then No One Would Know the GLORY of GOD's REDEMPTION!!

Jn 12:27-28 “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name.”

“ Why marriage? Why is there marriage? Why does marriage exist? Why do we live in marriages? This means that my topic is part of a larger question: Why does anything exist? Why do you exist? Why does sex exist? Why do earth and sun and moon and stars exist? Why do animals and plants and oceans and mountains and atoms and galaxies exist? The answer to all these questions, including the one about marriage is: all of them exist to and for the glory of God. ... That is, they exist to magnify the truth and worth and beauty and greatness of God. ... God is unimaginably great and infinitely valuable and unsurpassed in beauty. Everything that exists is meant to magnify that reality.” **John Piper**, Building Strong Families, p. 91