



The Philosophy of Ministry – Week 6

“God’s glory as our Motive”

In this study we will examine the highest and greatest purpose in God’s creation of man, and what must be the chief motive of our lives.

1. The Purpose of Man

- A. Have you ever asked the question: Why do I exist?
- B. Who and what determines the purpose of existence?
- C. Whoever the _____ is determines the purpose of the creation.
 - 1) **Revelation 4:11** - *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: **for thou hast created all things**, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*
 - 2) God created us and therefore determines the purpose of our existence.
- D. Our existence is purposeful – you are here on purpose and for a purpose
- E. What would you say the motive of man should be based on the following passages: _____
 - 1) **Matthew 22:35–38** - *Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.*
 - 2) **1 Corinthians 10:31** - *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*
- F. You exist to _____ God, and the most overwhelming thing in all of eternity is the glory of God, nothing is higher, more excellent, more spectacular, more thrilling, more overwhelming than the glory of God.
- G. **Read Ezekiel 1:28, 3:23, 44:4**
 - 1) How did Ezekiel describe what he saw? _____
 - 2) How does he respond to the glory of God? _____
 - 3) Did John respond any different when he saw the resurrected Christ in the following passage?
 - **Revelation 1:17** - *And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:*

2. The Glory of God is the _____ theme of the Scriptures

- A. The word “Glory” in the Bible comes from the Greek word “Doxa” where we get Doxology.
 - 1) In reference to God, it means: the “splendor, majesty, and excellency that only belongs to God”.
 - 2) God is the very essence of what glory is. He is glory. There is no glory apart from God.

B. God alone is worthy of the glory

- † **1 Corinthians 1:31** - *That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.*
- † **Psalm 29:2** - *"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."*

C. God created everything for His glory

- † **Revelation 4:11** - *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*
- † **Psalm 19:1** - *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

D. The disciples of the Lord understood that the glory of God was the purpose for their work and very existence; it was their driving motivation, it was their goal and aim in life – to glorify God – and they called people to give God all the glory

- † **Isaiah 42:12** - *"Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands."*
- † **Romans 16:27** - *"To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen."*
- † **Ephesians 3:21** - *"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."*
- † **Philippians 4:20, Heb. 13:21, Jude 1:25, 1 Pet. 5:11, Rev. 1:6, 4:11**

E. When Jesus came to earth, He came revealing the glory of God.

- † **John 1:14** - *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

F. When Jesus comes again, He will come in great glory

- † **Matthew 25:31** - *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

G. If the glory of God is the central theme of the Bible, the purpose for my existence, the purpose for all things, then the question is, "am I living for the glory of God?"

3. Sin is that which assaults the glory of God

A. Man is created to _____; mankind idolizes greatness. How is this distinctly human?

- 1) **"Worship" comes from** two words: "Worth: and "ship" – *giving reverence to something that has glory, dignity, distinction, honor, and renown.* Worship is the reverence you pay to something that is glorious and worthy.
- 2) To "worship" and "glorify" God then means we are declaring the glory, majesty, honor, and renown of the Lord.
- 3) To glorify God does not mean we make God valuable or elevate God with our praise and worship of Him; as if His worth came from our view of Him. Rather to glorify God simply means we are declaring with our lives that God is indeed glorious – We are responding to the worth and majesty and glory of God with the rightful praise due to Him.

B. Every _____ that comes into this world is a result of misplaced worship. Instead of people living for God's glory, the exchange God's glory for something else.

† **Romans 1:19-23 — 19;** *Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20; For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21; Because that, when they knew God, they _____ him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22; Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23; And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

- 1) What does God's creation reveal in verse 19-20?
- 2) What does that leave man "without" according to verse 20? _____
- 3) What do men do if they do not worship God according to verse 21-22? _____
- 4) When man does not give glory to God, that glory gets redirected to God's _____.
- 5) What does man do to God in their lives in verse 23? _____
 1. **Note:** the key word of verse 23 is "changed" which can also be translated "_____". Man exchanges the worship of the true God for created things.
 2. What does man change in Romans 1:25? _____
- 6) If man does not worship God, if they chose not to reverence Him as glorious and worthy, then they will always make the alternative of worshiping something in the creation. Misplaced worship is the downfall of humanity!

➤ What do you think of when you hear the word "idol" or "idolatry"?

C. Where does God say men can set up idols according to Ezekiel 14:2-3?

† **Ezekiel 14:2-3 — 2;** *And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 3; Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?*

- 1) Idolatry isn't a primitive form of paganism that is done by carving out a piece of wood into an idol and worshiping it; rather the Bible speaks of idolatry as the love of other things more than God and placing more "worth" upon them than God. We all struggle with placing idols in our hearts, and we need to be able to recognize this great sin that can come into our lives.
- 2) Idols that come into our hearts are not always some vile sin but can be non-sinful things that begin to be the driving passion of our lives. When God is neglected for something in this world it becomes sinful and becomes idolatry.

D. What are idols people can have in their heart?

- 1) _____ - **Romans 1:22-23**

1. How can someone make themselves number one instead of God?

2. What did Jesus say a person had to do to follow Him in Luke 9:23?

† **Luke 9:23** - *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

† **Psalm 115:1** - *Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.*

2) Family -

- How can someone make a family member an idol?

† **Matthew 10:37** - *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*

3) Things of this world -

† **1 John 2:15-16** - *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

† **2 Timothy 3:4** - *Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;*

4) Addictions -

1. What are things that people can be addicted to?

2. Should anything in our life have control over us besides God?

† **1 Corinthians 6:12** - *“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, **but I will not be brought under the power of any.**”*

3. The Bible teaches it is a sin for something or someone to have the control over you that only God should have! The believer should only be controlled by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18) and not by some fleshly desire.

5) _____ of man or the desire for approval – John 12:42-43, Acts 5:28-29

1. These are opposite sides of the same coin. This is succumbing to peer-pressure and allowing your peers to determine your behaviors. You will dress, act, talk, and behave in ways that those around you approve of and desire.

2. Is it wrong to want to be accepted by those your around?

3. Why can this be wrong and be an idol?

† **John 12:42-43** — *Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.*

† **Acts 5:28-29** — *...We ought to obey God rather than men.*

E. Idols will never _____ - Ecclesiastes 2:9-11, 5:10

1) What do you learn from King Solomon in Ecclesiastes 2:9-11, 5:10?

† **Ecclesiastes 2:9-11** — *So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me. And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my*

labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

† **Ecclesiastes 5:10** — *He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.*

- 2) Only God can satisfy the longing of man's heart. He created it and He alone can satisfy it. Either people will love and serve God or they will exchange the truth of God for a lie and worship and serve the "creature" more than the "Creator".

F. Are there any idols in your heart and life that you need to remove?

† **Psalm 139:23–24** - *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

G. Salvation is restoring the glory of God in the life of a person.

- 1) To be saved is to give glory to God – you confess that He is Lord and you are not; you place your faith in His Son.... (Romans 10:13)
- 2) People stay lost because they will not glorify God with their lives
 - † **Revelation 16:9** - " And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: **and they repented not to give him glory.**"

H. In both salvation and sanctification, we are being changed into the image of God that causes us to reflect His glory

- 1) **2 Corinthians 3:18** - *But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed into the same image from glory to glory**, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*
- 2) **John 17:22**- *And **the glory which thou gavest me I have given them;***

....

I. One day we will be glorified in God as our bodies will reflect His "glorious" body!

- † **Philippians 3:21** - ***Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body**, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. (I John 3:2 – we shall be like Him..."*
- † **Romans 8:17** - *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, **that we may be also glorified together.***
- † **Romans 8:30** - *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, **them he also glorified.***
- † **1 Thessalonians 2:12** - *That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you **unto his kingdom and glory.***
- † **Colossians 3:4, Hebrews 2:10**

4. Is God's Glory your central _____ in life and service to God?

- A. What are some reasons people can serve God?

- B.** Why do you believe you have sought to serve God? What is your motive for taking this LBI course? Why do you go to Church, pray, read the Bible, share the Gospel?
- C.** Why is the answer to this question so important?
- D. Is it possible to do “good” things with “wrong” motives? How so?**
- 1) What were some of the reasons the following people had faith and sought to serve God:
 1. Job _____
 2. David - _____
 3. Pharisees - _____
 4. Judas - _____
 - 2) One danger that can happen to many Christians is they can live trying to see what they can “gain” out of their faith instead of seeking to “give” out of their faith. They want to make spiritual decisions that will benefit them instead of really seeking to glorify God. Their motive becomes _____-centered instead of _____-centered.
 - 3) **What are some reasons many parents want their kids to behave well?**
 1. _____
 2. What should be a parent’s motive for their kids to behave well? _____
 - 4) **Why do many people pray for their sick friends to get better?**
 1. _____
 2. What should be the central motive for praying for those who are sick? _____
 - 5) **Why do many people seek to overcome addictions in their lives?**
 1. _____
 2. What should be the motive to overcome addiction? _____
 - 6) **What are “good” motives that people seek to give up sin but they are not “God-motives”?** _____
 - 7) **Consider salvation, why do people sometimes say they should get saved?** _____
 - 8) **Is it possible to pray for your loved one to get saved but have a wrong motive? Consider why you want your spouse to be saved?**
 “So, our marriage can be better, so we get along better for the kids”.
 That may be a great outcome, but why is that a wrong motive?
- E.** If our motive is wrong, if our motive is man-centered instead of Christ centered, who will ultimately be receiving the glory? _____
- F.** Should we expect God to bless our lives, ministries, prayers, teaching/preaching, evangelism if our motive is not to glorify God?
- G. In the Scriptures you find very few sought to glorify God even for the great things He has done. How is that seen in the following passage?**
- 1) **Luke 17:12-18 — 12;** *And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: 13; And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. 14; And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. 15; And one of*

them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, **16**; And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. **17**; And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? **18**; There are not found that returned to give _____ to God, save this stranger.

2) How does Jesus respond to this Samaritan man in verse 19?

- **Luke 17:19 - And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.**

3) All 10 were physically healed, but only the one who gave glory to God had his soul healed and got saved! Wholeness is a result of exalting and glorifying God.

H. Motives that are man-driven for man's gain and man's benefit are man empowered, man-blessed, and man honoring. Motives that are driven by the glory of God – receive the blessings of God and glorify God.

I. What in our life should we not be motivated to do for the glory of God?

1) **What should wives be motivated to submit to and honor their husbands (Ephesus 5:22)?** _____

2) What should be the husband's motive to love their wives (Ephesians 5:25)? _____

3) Why should children obey their parents (Eph.6:1)? _____

4) Who should be center in why parents raise their children correctly (Eph.6:4)? _____

5) What should be the motive employees work the way they do for their employers (Eph. 6:5-7)? _____

1. Does your work ethic reflect a motive that is vertical or horizontal?

2. Why is this important to do?

3. How can having the right motive help when frustrations arise at work?

J. How can this apply to ministry?

1) What can happen if we make man our motive in teaching/preaching according to the following verse?

† **Galatians 1:10** — *For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.*

2) If we allow fear of man to affect how we minister, who is our chief motive? What do you learn from the following verse and how can it apply to ministry?

† **Proverbs 29:25** — *The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*

3) Why is keeping God your motive important if people were to offend you?

4) Is it possible for people to stop ministering because another Christian offended them?

5) If we stop ministering because of people, who is our motive?

K. In ministry make sure you keep the following verse at the heart of your service:

† **1 Corinthians 10:31 — 31**; *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

Assignment:

- i.** Read: chapter 6 – Pursuit of God – “The Speaking Voice” and write a 2-paragraph response:
 - 1.** Paragraph one: Summarize what this chapter was about.
 - 2.** Paragraph two: How you can apply these truths to your life.
- ii.** Test over this lesson.