

Why Were We Saved ?

Text : **Ephesian 1: 3-14**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Sociologists have lamented the detrimental affects WW II had on our culture.

1. It damaged the structure of the typical America home.
2. Longstanding traditional values went by the wayside.
3. Decades of prosperity fostered an obsession with financial gain. **SI# 1**
 - a. People wanted everything they had the potential to get and then some.
 - b. Things became more important than people and relationships.
 - c. People were willing to uproot their families to pursue “*a better life*” elsewhere.

B. That generation became known as the “*greatest generation*” because they build our country into the most prosperous country in history.

1. They remembered the great depression and resented it. **SI# 2**
2. The greatest generation was obsessed with making sure their children did not have to go through what they had gone through.
3. When possible, most of them indulged their children beyond what was appropriate.
 - a. They were given all their parents could afford.
 - b. Most often both of their parents worked so they had insufficient supervision.
 - c. Having migrated to the city, there were few chores for them to do.

C. Thus, the children of the “*greatest Generation*” became the “*Me Generation*.”

1. These are also known as the “Boomer.” (Born between 1946 & 1964) **SI# 3**
2. They grew up disrespectful, undisciplined, and poorly socialized.
3. The “*Me Generation*” fully embraced the entertainment and consumer culture. **SI# 4**
 - a. They demonized the rich, but expected to have things provided to them and others.
 - b. They wanted to be protected, but rejected the rules that make society civil.
 - c. They fostered such inventions as Disco and Hot-tubs.
 - d. They created to “self-help” and personal fitness industries.

SI# 5

D. They’re called the “*Me Generation*” because the world revolves around them.

1. They want unrestrained sex without consequences resulting in the abortion epidemic.
2. They refuse to do the work that’s required to make a marriage work. (**50%+ divorce**)

3. They are not happy or contented so they resort to drugs. (*result = war on drugs*)
4. They think everyone should be taken care of by others. (*46% on food stamps*)

E. This “all about me” culture has been brought into the church.

SI# 6

1. People today shop churches like buying a car ... **test driving** the popular models.
 - a. Do I like the music ?
 - b. Do they have plenty of programs ?
2. These people attend church like attending a play.
 - a. Just set an watch like any other audience (*Spectators*)
 - b. Evaluate the participants.

SI# 7

Today, many approach religion with this a “All About Me” attitude.

SI# 8

Their primary concern is, “*What does this church do for me ?*”

* They are seeking salvation without responsibility. (*popular doctrine*)

Today we ask ourselves, “*Why were we saved ?*”

I. Why did God create the world ? Gen. 1 Why did He create man. Gen. 2 SI# 9

A. What was God’s existence like before He created this universe ?

1. God did not come into existence when the world was created.
2. Other beings existed before the world existed, e.g., Satan ... **Gen 3.** (*He interacts*)

B. God created the world for Himself.

SI# 10

1. **Col. 1: 16 –17** For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.
17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
2. **I Cor. 8: 5-6** For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, **S11** as indeed there are many gods and many lords, **6** yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him. (*It’s not all just about us.*)

C. We understand creating things for ourselves which also benefit of others.

SI# 12

1. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. *Millions now use it.*

SI# 13

2. The Wright Brothers invented the plane because they wanted to fly.

SI# 14

They made it for themselves, but now everyone can fly.

3. Paintings enjoyed as great works of art were expressions of the artist's heart. **Sl# 15**

- a. Joyce Kilmer sees a tree and writes a poem ... *"I think that I shall never see ..."*
- b. Van Gogh sees a tree and paints a famous painting.

D. Like a human inventor, artist or poet, God created the world for Himself.

- 1. It pleased God to create this universe.
- 2. He created it for Himself.
- 3. All that is on the earth is FOR God ... not for man.

*** It's really not all about us.**

Sl# 16

- a. This earth exists only because it pleased God to create it.
- b. It will continue to exist only so long as it pleases God for it to exist.

*** Therefore, it behooves man to please His creator.**

Remember the flood. There is a limit to God's patience.

II. All things that exist, do so to the glory of God.

Sl# 17

A. God reveals himself through His creation and expects to be glorified by it. **Sl# 18**

- 1. **Psalms 19: 1** – The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. (ESV)
- 2. **Romans 1: 20** – For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. ... (ESV)

B. God wants to be glorified by His people. (*We are His servants, not His peers.*) **Sl# 19**

- 1. **Haggai 1: 8** – Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified," says the Lord. **Sl# 20**
- 2. Jesus taught that Christians must actively seek to glorify God with our lives.
Matt. 5: 16 – Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may (*How ?*) see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

C. God wants to be glorified in His church. **Sl# 21**

- 1. God cleansed the church so it would reflect His glory.
Eph. 5: 25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

2. **Eph. 3: 20-21** Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, **21 to Him be the glory in the church** and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.

III. How does one bring glory to God ?

Sl# 22

A. One must make glorifying God the goal of His life and work to accomplish it.

1. One must realize it's not all about him.
 - a. It's not wrong to want to go to Heaven.
 - b. Being a servant of God, of Christ, is to serve HIM, not try to earn Heaven.
 - c. No one can earn salvation or merit Heaven. **It is the gift of God.**
- * **Salvation is by Christ alone, by grace alone, through faith alone, but the faith that saves is married to and manifested by actions.**
2. To love God is to turn one's focus away from self and toward Him.
3. A goal is something one works to accomplish, not just hopes will happen. Sl# 23
 - a. **I Pet. 4: 11** – **Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ...**
Serve with zeal
 - b. We must keep in mind that we are doing what we are doing to the glory of God.
II Cor. 8: 19 – **... he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, ...**

B. There are many practical ways to glorify God by our daily activities.

1. Overtly living a virtuous Christian life glorifies God. Sl# 25
 - a. **I Cor. 6: 20** – **For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. (Make godly life-choices)**
 - b. **I Pet. 2: 12** – **Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God ...**
 - c. **People must know you make godly choices because you are a Christian.**
2. Being a faithful witness for Christ glorifies God.
 - a. **II Cor. 8: 23** – **... as for our brethren, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ.**
 - b. Remember : **I Pet. 4: 11** – **... one who is speaking the utterances of God ...**

3. Showing gratitude for blessings received glorifies God. SI# 26
 - a. **Luke 17: 17-18** Then Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they? ¹⁸ Was no one found who (*God is aware of blessings*) returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?”
 - b. *Thanksgiving acknowledges God as the source. ... to man and to the angels.*
4. Unity in His church glorifies God. SI# 27

Romans 15: 5-6 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
5. Doing good works glorifies God. SI# 28 (*Not meritorious works*)
 - a. We exist as Christians to accomplish specifically assigned good works.

Eph. 2: 10 – For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
 - b. Our good works are to be seen and cause God to be glorified. SI# 29

Matt 5: 16 – Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in Heaven.
 - c. When a Christian bears fruit for God, it brings glory to Him in the spiritual realm.

Phil 1: 9-11 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; ¹¹ having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

IV. Those who bring glory to God will share in His glory.

SI# 30

- A. When one is called out of the world by the gospel, he is called to glory.
 1. God calls Christians with the promise of eternal life (**Rom. 6: 23**) eternal glory.

I Pet. 5: 10 – After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, SI# 31
who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.
 2. Those who respond to the call of the gospel anticipate eternal glory in Heaven.

Col. 1: 27 – to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- B. Christians anticipate being in the presence of God and thus His glory.
 1. Heaven is a place that is full of glory. (*Can't be described in earthly terms*) SI# 32

II Tim 2: 10 – For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

2. If we've been dedicated to His glory, we will share in it when Jesus returns to take us home.

SI# 33

Col. 3: 2-4 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

3. We must first pass through a time of testing on this earth.

I Pet. 1: 7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

CONCLUSION :

- A. I challenge us all as the Apostle challenged the brethren in Corinth :

SI# 34

I Cor. 10: 31 – Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

- a. Vocation
- b. Vacation
- c. Habitation

- B. Only Jesus can make you stand in the presence of God's glory.

SI# 35

Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

INVITATION :

- A. Are you serving God ?

SI# 36

1. Are you seeking HIS glory
2. OR ... is your life all about you.

SI# 37

- B. Jesus committed his life to you, have you committed yours to Him

SI# 38

Lesson Text :**Ephesian 1: 3-14**

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, **4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love **5** He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, **6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. **7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace **8** which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight **9** He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him **10** with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him **11** also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, **12** to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. **13** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's* own possession, to the praise of His glory.