

The Chief End of God

Isaiah 48:9-11

**Who is the most God centred
person you know?**

“For my name's sake I defer my anger; for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.

Isaiah 48:9-11

Have you ever wondered why
God does things? What does
God delight in?

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Isaiah 48:9-11

What is God's Glory?

“God had to respect himself, to his last and highest end in this work: because he is worthy in himself to be so, being infinitely the greatest and best of beings. All things else, with regard to worthiness, importance, and excellence, are perfectly as nothing in comparison of him...All that is ever spoken of in the Scripture as an ultimate end of God’s works is included in that one phrase, the glory of God.

Jonathan Edwards

**So where do we see God act for
the sake of his glory?**

Therefore say to the house of Israel, **Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.** 23 And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. **And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.** 24 I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 **And I will put my Spirit within you,** and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules...32 **It is not for your sake that I will act, declares the Lord God; let that be known to you.** Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel.

Ezekiel 36: 22-27,32

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 **to the praise of his glorious grace**, with which he has blessed 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 upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 **so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory**. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, **to the praise of his glory**.

Ephesians 1:3-14

“Everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory, whom I
formed and made.”

Isaiah 43:7

What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand **for glory**—

Romans 9:22-23

And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, **and I will get glory** over Pharaoh and all his host, **and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.**” And they did so.

Exodus 14:4

But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, **so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.**

Exodus 9:16

“Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them in the wilderness, to make a full end of them. ¹⁴ **But I acted for the sake of my name**, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out.

Ezekiel 20:14

And all the people said to Samuel, “**Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, that we may not die**, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king.”²⁰ And Samuel said to the people, “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart.²¹ And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty.²² **For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake**, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and **in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.**

Romans 15:8-9

²⁷“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. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

John 12:27-28

**God Loves HIS Glory Above
Everything!**

What are the implications?

1. What if there were no implications for you?

“Why is it important to be stunned by the God-centredness of God. Because many people are willing to be God centred as long as they feel God is man centred. It is a subtle danger. We may think we are centring our lives on God when we are really making Him a means to self-esteem.”

John Piper

2. “Small” Idols

3. Prayer

**When you pray, on what do you
stake the answer to your prayers?**

Though our iniquities testify against us,
act, O Lord, **for your name's sake**; for our
backslidings are many; we have sinned
against you.

Jeremiah 14:7

Help us, O God of our salvation, **for the glory of your name**; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake!

Psalm 79:9

Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, **and for your own sake**, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate.

Daniel 9:17

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Matthew 6:9-13

When you pray, on what will you stake the answer to your prayers?

4. The Best Way To Be Loved

5. Our Ultimate Purpose

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

6. The Holy Spirit's Purpose