

## First - First in Purpose – Part 2

### Introduction/review

Last week we looked at this passage concerning God's purpose for creating man,

#### Heb. 2:5-10

<sup>5</sup> For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. <sup>6</sup> But one testified in a certain place, saying:

*“What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? <sup>7</sup> You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. <sup>8</sup> You have put all things in subjection under his feet.”*

*For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. <sup>9</sup> But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. <sup>10</sup> For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

We saw last week that **God created man for nothing less than to share in His glory.**

We looked at two of the four parts of the Grand Story of mankind:

#### Creation

*You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. – Heb. 2:7*

#### Rebellion

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God - Rom. 3:23*

**We want to look at the last two chapters in this story today:**

#### Redemption

Heb. 2:9 – *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

- Jesus' death on the cross was a 'substitution'.
- He died, not only for our sins, but for those of the whole world - 1 John 2
- God did not send His Son to die on the cross just to erase our sin. He was sent to restore us to our original purpose –
- *For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. – Heb. 2:10*
- It is the lack of understanding that has not only minimized salvation for many, but caused many to fall back into sin. Forgiveness was the end, not the means.

Some would say this passage refers only to the afterlife, but look at what Jesus told the Father in His prayer in John 17:

- John 17:22 – *And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one.*
- This is sharing of Presence, impartation of revelation, exaltation of purpose.
- Paul also tells us that we are to be involved *now* in God's purpose, being transformed in ever greater ways into the glory of God.

- 2 Cor. 3:18 - *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image **from glory to glory**, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

**Why did God allow both rebellion and the needed redemption to happen?**

- Evidently, He wanted people who really wanted the glory of God to be the ones to receive it.

**Final Judgment**

- In the broad sense, best seen as ‘inspection’.
  - 1 Peter 2:12 - *Keep your conduct among the Gentiles (unbelievers) honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and **glorify God on the day of visitation**.*
    - *they will give honor to God when he judges the world. (NLT)*
  - “visitation” is Greek word *episcope*
    - It literally means “investigation, inspection”
    - Also translated, “office of a bishop (pastor)”, because that’s what they do – inspect our lives in relation to God and His will. This is why we need the church.
    - Hebrews 13:17 - *Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit. (NLT)*
- Heaven is reserved for those who receive and live for the glory of God
  - John 17:22 – *And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one.***
  - You have to be compatible with both God and His people to live forever with both.
- Different degrees of outward glory in heaven corresponding to the inward glory on earth.
  - Dan. 12:2,3 - *<sup>2</sup>And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup>And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. (ESV)*
- Hell is reserved for those who live for something other than the glory of God.
- We are all right now being conformed more into the glory of God or more away from it.
  - Brightness or dimness
  - Virtue or compromise
  - Purpose or indifference

**Response**

- I will live to glorify God!