

## God's Dream Lesson 2

- a. One Sentence Summary: We were created by God for a purpose and that purpose gives God pleasure.

- i. Introduction

1. Goal- to find out what God's eternal dream is
2. Review
  - a. In Lesson 1 we have looked at multiple scriptures which seem to be pieces to that puzzle.
  - b. We then found the "flat pieces" that formed the frame of the puzzle by looking at Ephesians 3:11. In that passage, we found out that God has an eternal purpose.
3. In this lesson we learn that not only does God have an eternal purpose, but everything was created for His pleasure...

- ii. Body

1. Bob's hobby of building things that have a purpose and brings him pleasure.
  - a. One of the first things I made for my wife was a tray for taking food to various places.
  - b. Eventually I worked toward the goal of building a small entertainment center and a roll top desk. Both had a purpose, and both fulfilled that purpose and building both brought me a lot of pleasure and satisfaction....
  - c. One of the fun projects was building the tree fort for our kids with a zip line.
  - d. When we built this studio, I got the left over wood and built this swing. It was fun... I enjoyed it... and then I cut the lettering for the words that hang on the top of the porch.
  - e. Everything I've made had a purpose. Everything I've built brought me pleasure.
2. In order to discover God's dream, we need to realize that whatever God creates has a purpose... and it too, brings Him pleasure.
3. The scriptures are full of examples of God creating things for a purpose.
  - a. Pro. 16:4- The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil.
  - b. Everything has a purpose. That means the clouds in the sky, the stars in the galaxy, the blades of grass on the ground, the flowers of the field... everything has a purpose.
    - i. Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.
    - ii. Ephesians 1.11-12 In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory.
    - iii. Everything has a purpose and it works according to God's will. God has never looked down on the earth

- and seen something and said, “Hey, what is that doing here?”
- iv. God has never seen something happen on the earth and said, “Oops. I didn’t want THAT to happen.”
  - v. We find the same thing in 2 Timothy 1:9 as God speaks about His call in our lives *but He adds to it*, with a twist:
  - vi. 8Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,
  - vii. The NLT says - 9For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was His plan, from before the beginning of time—to show us His grace through Christ Jesus.
  - viii. What is the twist? Before time began, God had a plan. In other words, before He spoke the first star into existence, before the Galaxies were created, before the earth was formed, before God even created mankind... God was thinking about what He wanted to do... God was dreaming!
  - ix. Rev. 4.9-11 And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”
    - x. Because of “God’s will” all things were created and therefore God is to be praised! God’s will means God had a purpose. And simply because God had a purpose, God should be praised.
  - c. We now find out that we will be praising Him for the rest of time (that is, all eternity,) because everything was created “By His will.”
4. As you look into the original languages for many of these passages, you can find out that certain words or phrases can be translated in many different ways. That phrase “because of His will” is one of those phrases. Instead of “because of your will,” it can easily be translated from the original Greek, “for your pleasure.”
  5. In other words, the text can read, “for You created all things, and for your pleasure they were created and have their being.”

- a. So, the galaxies were created for the pleasure of God. You know that makes sense. WE can't even see 99.9% of them with our human eye. But they're not here for us. They're here for God. The galaxies were created for the pleasure of God!
  - b. Our universe was created for the pleasure of God. The sky was created for God's pleasure.
  - c. The giraffe was created for the pleasure of God. The avocado was created for the pleasure of God. You were created for the pleasure of God and I was created for the pleasure of God.
  - d. "Why did God create us?" Why did God create anything? The answer? Because it brought Him pleasure.
6. Sometimes it's so easy to get wrapped up in our existence, in the busyness of life, in our hectic goals and fast paced lifestyle, that we rarely stop to think about God, or even wonder, "I wonder what God is getting out of this..." or realize that God CAN be pleased. Yet it is true. There are things which bring God pleasure. That means He does have emotions. He does have feelings.
  7. There are scriptures that are full of this thought that God gets pleasure.
    - a. Colossians 1:19, Paul is writing them because he has never met them (the church was founded by a man named Epaphras during Paul's third missionary trip) yet he desperately wants them to see the supremacy of Christ...that they might know Him, enjoy Him, and pass Him on to others. Hence the letter is all about Christ and His supremacy...
      - i. As he does this, he writes these words about God's Pleasure...(starting in verse 18): He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. 19For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,
      - ii. God's dream included the pleasure of having the fullness of the deity dwell in Christ. God wanted us to see Him fully and completely, hence He put the fullness of the Godhead into Christ.
    - b. Psalm 149:4: For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the afflicted ones with salvation.
      - i. In fact, God clearly states, He takes pleasure in His people. In fact, that's why they were created! Oh, if we would just meditate on that and realize that we were thought up before time began and God takes pleasure in us, knowing everything He knows about us...And, His pleasure and comfort will be with us throughout eternity! ... Oh how that could set some people free! The more we own God's dream, the freer we can be.
    - c. In Hosea, God is lamenting all of the empty sacrifices His people are making. With their lips they praise Him, with their actions, they honor and respect Him, but their hearts are not right.

God is not pleased with them, so He lets them know what does bring Him pleasure, so He says to the people of Israel:

- i. God is saying, “I don’t want your empty sacrifices. They are nothing to me. I own every animal... I created them all. What I want (or what brings me pleasure) is loyalty and you wanting to know me, far more than your empty sacrifices.... Your actions mean nothing when your heart is far from me....”  
Proverbs 21:3 confirms this: To do righteousness and justice is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice.
8. Jesus even quotes the Hosea passage. When He is eating in Matthew’s house, the tax collector, the Pharisees go to His disciples and ask, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”... Upon hearing this, Jesus responds with these words found in Matthew 9:13 “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire compassion, and not sacrifice,’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”
9. Jesus is seeing the same problem in His day that existed during the days of Hosea. There were people then, (as there are now) in our churches today, where people are not following God with their whole heart.
10. There are people going through the motions of “Christianity” when in reality, their heart is far from God.
11. Just as there are things that God does take pleasure in, He also lets us know that there are things He does NOT take pleasure in; in fact, He can get downright mad at times.
  - a. We catch a glimpse of this in the beginning of the book of Isaiah. Here, God is fed up with the people of Israel, who have gotten into the Promised Land, and have forgotten God in the process, believing it was their strength, their power, their wisdom, that got them there.
  - b. Though they have forgotten Him in their heart, they still were going through the outward rituals.
    - i. God tells them they are like Sodom and Gomorrah. He says these words starting in verse 10: Hear the word of the LORD, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the instruction of our God, You people of Gomorrah. 11 “What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?” says the LORD. “I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle; and I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats. 12 “When you come to appear before Me, Who requires of you this trampling of My courts? 13 “Bring your worthless offerings no longer, Incense is an abomination to Me. New moon and Sabbath, the calling of assemblies— I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly. 14 “I hate your new moon *festivals* and your

appointed feasts, they have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing *them*.

c. Amos 5:18

i. Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light. 19 It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. 20 Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light— pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness? 21 "I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies. 22 Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. 23 Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.

d. God was mad. The majority of the people of Israel were going through the motions of being Jews. They knew what to do and when to do it, but their hearts were far from God.

e. Translating that into today's scenario, there are people who are doing church, with wonderful music and messages, but God is not pleased.

12. Colossians 1:16 sums it up very well.

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. Look at the very end of the verse. Everything was created "for God."

13. The galaxies were created for God. Even though we can't see them, that shouldn't bother us. Why? Because they weren't created for us. They were created for God.

14. This earth was created for God. The giraffe and the avocado were created for God. You and I were created For God. We are not our own. We are here FOR God.

15. Why? Because God has a dream. He is living out that dream. He has been thinking about it for all eternity past.

16. And He right now, is accomplishing that dream. And you and I are a part of that dream, we have a purpose, an eternal purpose, and we bring Him pleasure.

17. But for now, hopefully we are content to realize, this life, creation as we know it, did not randomly get created as evolutionists would have us believe. There was not a "BIG BANG" out of nothing, and now, after billions of years, we are all of a sudden here.

iii. Conclusion- **We** were created for a purpose. God has been thinking His dream for all eternity past. And that purpose is eternal, it will last forever. And that purpose brings God pleasure.