

EPHESIANS 2:7 BUT WHY HAS GOD DONE ALL THIS?

After seeing the exceedingly abundant riches that we, as Christians, get because of God's amazing grace, such as making us alive and sitting us in the heavenlies in Christ, we will now see why God has graced us so much.

Our view of what God has really done for us is defective. Do we really believe we sit in the heavenlies? But it is the truth. We are so subjective and are consumed with the present troubles in our own lives. We tend to go by our feelings and let them lead, rather than the objective truth. Our scope is so limited and we look at the minor things and not the big things. We are so concerned with ourselves when we should be focusing on the great scheme of God. We complain and murmur when certain things don't go our way. We wonder why God allows negative things happen to us. Actually we should have our view on the glory of God and the glory that awaits us. That is the solution to our self-centeredness and self concern. Oh if we could see ourselves in the great purpose of God. Why has God done such marvelous things for us? That's the question we will try to solve in this study.

1. THE CHIEF END IS THE GLORY OF GOD

God wants to present a spectacle to all future ages. God will put on a spectacular, awesome display of His glory.

This is the reason why God has done tremendous things for us. He is to be glorified. That is the chief end of God. That is what we need to keep ever before us. It is the obvious, but how often during the day, do we forget that?

A. THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE START WITH OURSELVES

We think of salvation as centered around us. We are so subjective. But the real reason for salvation is not about us at all. It is for God's glory.

B. WE MUST BEGIN WITH THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF SIN

We should not even start with our own sins, but with sin in general. There is the whole scope of human history that we forget about. We are so wrapped up in the time we live in and our own surroundings. We feel so important and that our time that we live in is the most important time of all history. We need to see ourselves with all of humankind and it's sin problem. We have to start with the whole problem of man.

C. SATAN'S AIM WAS TO DETRACT FROM GOD'S GLORY

Satan raised himself against God and His majesty and sovereignty. Satan had one thought in mind when he tempted Adam and Eve to sin. It was to take away from the glory of God. Adam and Eve were pawns. He just wanted to attack the glory of God. This was God's good creation that was now tainted. The problem to God was His own glory. 1 Jn 3:8—The Son was sent to destroy the works of the devil.

D. THE WHOLE CHARACTER OF GOD IS TO BE VINDICATED

This is the first objective, that the whole character of God be

vindicated.

The greatest theodicy of the ages. God will justify Himself by displaying His greatness, supremacy, and glory.

The great plan of salvation and redemption declares His own glory.

Why did God send His own Son? It was to vindicate Himself.

2. SALVATION MANIFESTS GOD'S CHARACTER

A. THE UNANSWERABLE QUESTION-WHY DID GOD ALLOW THE FALL?

Why did God ever allow man to fall.

B. WE DON'T KNOW THE EXACT ANSWER

We have to be careful how we inquire into this. Adam had free will before the Fall but man lost that after that. It was part of man's perfection.

C. GOD PUT ON DISPLAY CERTAIN ATTRIBUTES

One explanation is that God has displayed certain attributes of His Holy being and nature and character which, otherwise, could never be known.

Mercy, love, grace, kindness, wrath

3. GOD'S NATURE IS DISPLAYED THRU THE CHURCH

This is one of the most incredible truths of the ages. It is that God would vindicate His character by something He does in us and through us.

A. WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

This is where we forget our self-interests and see ourselves in this great plan of God as a result of the Fall.

B. THE SCRIPTURAL PROOF

Ephesians 3:10—He will vindicate His character by us.

The heavenly powers and principalities will see. God will say to Look at them. His wisdom will be known by the church.

Revelation 7:9-16--Who are these? Where have they come from?

They are Christians throughout the thousands of years, redeemed through the ages. They are all gathered there in glory.

God is preparing His painting. He will add His finishing touches.

The display is coming!

4. HOW GOD WILL DO THIS THROUGH THE CHURCH

A. WHY DID HE EVER LOOK UPON US AT ALL?

We were miserable, vile sinners. Why us? We didn't look to be saved.

B. SALVATION PLANNED FROM ETERNITY

Salvation is all of God from beginning to end.

C. THE WONDER OF WHO WE ARE AND WHO WE WILL BE

5. HOW SHOULD WE THEN THINK OF OURSELVES?

A. THERE IS NO GOOD IN AND OF OURSELVES

If you can find anything in yourself to be pleased about, you don't get it.

B. HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE?

1 John 3:3

6. THROUGH CHRIST JESUS—THE WAY HE DID IT

The immeasurable riches of God's grace

The Son was made to be sin—for us !