

Living with an Eternal Perspective

Zoom Bible Study | Tuesdays @ 7:00pm (CST)

Led by Mary Lowman

January 17, 2023

Lesson Two

Review

2 Corinthians 4:17 – 18:

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

What is the question we want to ask ourselves regularly?

How do we "see" God?

Hebrews 12:2:

...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

What can you do daily to keep your eyes "fixed" on Jesus?

Here is how God sees you:

You are God's intentional creation.

Colossians 1:16:

"For by him (Jesus Christ) all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."

You were created by him and *for him*! The Almighty God created you and you were created for him - for his purposes, for his reasons. That knowledge alone brings significance into your life.

You were created for his pleasure.

Revelations 4:11 (KJV):

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

What we as Christ-followers must constantly make ourselves remember is that we bring God pleasure because he created us, not because we perform well.

J. I. Packer puts this so well in his wonderful classic, *Knowing God*:

"There is tremendous relief in knowing that His love to me is utterly realistic, based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me, so that no discovery now can disillusion Him about me, in the way I am so often disillusioned about myself, and quench His determination to bless me. . . for some unfathomable reason, he wants me as His friend, and desires to be my friend. . ." (p. 37).



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Finish this sentence:

God made me _____ and I bring God pleasure when I _____.

It is not pride to recognize and appreciate how God has created you.

You Are Worthy Because You Are Loved

“Some things are loved because they are worthy; some things are worthy because they are loved.”

Think of a little girl's raggedy teddy bear. Its ear is half missing, one of the buttons for his eyes is gone, he's obviously well-worn with much of his fuzz rubbed off. But does that change the way she feels about that teddy? It's her teddy and she wants it and no other. When she goes to bed at night, a new teddy bear will not suffice. You can't bribe her to give it up for a new one. She loves the raggedy teddy. That teddy is valuable because she loves that teddy.



Zephaniah 3:17:

"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

You were created for his glory.

Isaiah 43:1 – 4 and 6b – 7:

But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life.

'Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'"

God created you, you are his, he calls you by name, you are precious to him, he loves you - and you were created *for his glory*. Is that how you see yourself?

Looking Through the Eyes of Your Past

There are many Christians who know these facts but never live in their freedom. They continue to see themselves through the eyes of their past.

If people see us through our pasts, and we see ourselves that way as well, how could God not also be forever influenced and biased by our past, especially since he knows the worst about us!? Bask in these wonderful truths from Psalm 103:

"(The Lord) does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust" (Psalm 103:10 – 13).

To his wayward and disobedient Israel, he said:

"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more" (Isaiah 43:25).

And the Apostle Paul reminds us:

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:1-2).

I love this song my friend Damaris Carbaugh sings so beautifully:

I know what it's like to think of the things I have done
And want to run and hide my head in shame
I know what it's like to really hurt someone
And feel no sense of sorrow at their pain
But I know what it's like to have enough of my disgrace
And find because of Jesus' blood
My sin can be erased.

He has forgiven me. My sin has been washed from his memory
By the blood of the Lamb of Calvary
He has forgiven me.

Do you know what it's like for God to be your friend,
To talk to Him with nothing in between?
Do you know what it's like when the day comes to an end,
To sleep in peace because your heart is clean?
Do you know what it's like when the accuser comes your way?
To look Him squarely in the eye with confidence and say:
He has forgiven me,

My sin has been washed from His memory,
By the blood of the Lamb of Calvary
He has forgiven me.

The enemy of your soul will mire you down with your past if you allow him to. It's one of his favorite tactics to keep you from joy and peace and effectiveness. Pray daily that you will see yourself through God's eyes and live now in the light of how God sees you.

Our God is incredible at transforming ruined lives into testimonies of his greatness.

Isaiah 61:3b:

"To bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor."

No longer are you saddled with the names from your past.

What are some of the names you've had in your past? What is your new name?

You Are an Heir of God and Co-heir with Christ.

Romans 8:17:

"Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

If we are heirs of God, that means we're in line to inherit God's riches. And if we are co-heirs with Christ, that means we'll inherit equally with Christ of the Father's great riches.

When you look at yourself, do you see a rich heir? That's how God sees you, because that's the truth of who you are when you are his child.

See yourself in Christ.

Galatians 2:20:

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Colossians 3:3: *"For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God."*

Ephesians 2:4-7: *"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus."*