

Message Two

Enjoying God and Living for His Purpose

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:5, 9; 3:9-11; John 1:1, 14, 16-17

- I. Man was created by God with a need for enjoyment and purpose—Gen. 2:8-9; Eccl. 3:11.**
- II. God wants us to enjoy Him and to live for His purpose—Psa. 36:8-9; Rom. 8:28:**
 - A. The Triune God is a God of joy—Rom. 15:13; John 15:11; 17:13; Acts 13:52; Gal. 5:22.
 - B. As believers, we need to change our concept, focus on the enjoyment of God, and see that God's desire is to give Himself to us to be our enjoyment—John 1:1, 14, 16-17.
 - C. Whenever we draw near to God, we need to realize that He presents Himself to us for our enjoyment; thus, we should come to Him with the thought of enjoying Him—Psa. 36:8-9.
 - D. The secret to the Christian life is how much we enjoy God—John 15:11; 16:22.
 - E. God saved us and called us according to His own purpose, and now His purpose should become our purpose—Rom. 8:28; 2 Tim. 1:9; 3:10.
- III. The book of Ephesians was written from the perspective of God's good pleasure, the desire of His heart—1:5, 9:**
 - A. God needs pleasure, and this pleasure is according to His will—v. 5.
 1. Every living thing desires pleasure; because God is the most living One, He has a deep need for pleasure.
 2. God's good pleasure is what makes Him happy; it is what He likes, what pleases Him—v. 9.
 - B. God's good pleasure has been purposed by God in Himself; this means that God Himself is the source and sphere of His eternal purpose—v. 9; 3:9-11.
 - C. The church is according to the good pleasure of God's will, the desire of God's heart—1:5, 9, 22-23; 3:9-11.
 - D. God's good pleasure is related to His heart concerning us; when He thinks about us as the object of His dispensing, He is happy—vv. 16-17a.
- IV. God's eternal purpose is to dispense Himself into His chosen people to make them the same as He is in life and nature but not in the Godhead for His enlarged and expanded expression—vv. 2, 8-11:**
 - A. God's intention in His creation of all things, including man, was that man would be mingled with God to produce the church as the Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem for His glorious expression—Zech. 12:1; Rev. 4:11; 19:7; 21:2.
 - B. God's eternal purpose, according to the desire of His heart, is to have the church to be the organic Body of Christ for the manifestation of His multifarious wisdom—1:9-11, 22-23; 3:9-11.

- C. The church as the Body of Christ is the unique means used by God to fulfill His purpose and settle all His problems—cf. Gen. 1:26.
1. The church is for the expression, the glory, of God the Father in the divine sonship with the Father's life and nature—Eph. 1:4-5; John 17:22-24.
 2. The church is God's greatest boast in making known to the angelic rulers and authorities His multifarious wisdom for the shame and defeat of His enemy to bring in His kingdom—Eph. 3:10; Rom. 16:20.
 3. The church is for the heading up of all things in Christ through the working of Himself into us as life and light—Eph. 1:10, 22-23.