

We have all belittled the glory of God. How? By preferring other things above him. By our ingratitude, distrust and disobedience. So God is just in shutting us out from the enjoyment of his glory forever. "They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might" (2 Thessalonians 1:9). The word "hell" is used in the New Testament twelve times - eleven times by Jesus himself. It is not a myth created by dismal and angry preachers. It is a solemn warning from the Son of God who died to deliver sinners from its curse. We ignore it at great risk. If the Bible stopped here in its analysis of the human condition, we would be doomed to a hopeless future. However, this is not where it stops...

5) God sent his only son Jesus to provide eternal life and joy *"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..."* (1 Timothy 1:15)

The good news is that Christ died for sinners like us. And he rose physically from the dead to validate the saving power of his death and to open the gates of eternal life and joy (1 Corinthians 15:20). This means God can acquit guilty sinners and still be just (Romans 3:25-26). "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). Coming home to God is where all deep and lasting satisfaction is found. These are the truths for us to embrace and for us to teach our children. Even as Christians we can turn from God and prefer other things above Him. We want to connect our children to the Lord and help them stay connected by being constant worshippers of God ourselves. For those who are not saved.

6) The benefits purchased by the death of Christ belong to those who repent and trust him *"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out" (Acts 3:19). "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).*

"Repent" means to turn from all the deceitful promises of sin. "Faith" means being satisfied with all that God promises to be for us in Jesus. "He who believes in me," Jesus says, "shall never thirst" (John 6:35). We do not earn our salvation. We cannot merit it (Romans 4:4-5). It is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). It is a free gift (Romans 3:24). We will have it if we cherish it above all things (Matthew 13:44). When we do that, God's aim in creation is accomplished: He is glorified in us and we are satisfied in him - forever.

Does this make sense to you? Do you desire the kind of gladness that comes from being satisfied with all that God is for you in Jesus? If so, then God is at work in your life.

What should you do? Turn from the deceitful promises of sin. Call upon Jesus to save you from the guilt and punishment and bondage. "All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13). Start banking your hope on all that God is for you in Jesus. Break the power of sin's promises by faith in the superior satisfaction of God's promises. Begin reading the Bible to find his precious and very great promises, which can set you free (2 Peter 1:3-4). Find a Bible-believing church and begin to worship and grow together with other people who treasure Christ above all things (Philippians 3:7). Let's teach our kids that Christ is the greatest treasure a man can have.

The best news in the world is that there is no necessary conflict between our happiness and God's holiness. Being satisfied with all that God is for us in Jesus magnifies him as a great Treasure. *"You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."* (Psalm 16:11) (Modified from John Piper)

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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Did you know that God commands us to be glad?

"Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4)

1) God created us for his glory *"Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth,... whom I created for my glory"* (Isaiah 43:6-7)

God made us to magnify his greatness - the way telescopes magnify stars. He created us to put his goodness and truth and beauty and wisdom and justice on display. The greatest display of God's glory comes from deep delight in all that he is. This means that God gets the praise and we get the pleasure. God created us so that he is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.

2) Every human should live for God's glory *"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God"* (1 Corinthians 10:31).

If God made us for his glory, it is clear that we should live for his glory. Our duty comes from his design. So our first obligation is to show God's value by being satisfied with all that he is for us. This is the essence of loving God (Matthew 22:37) and trusting him (1 John 5:3-4) and being thankful to him (Psalm 100:2-4) It is the root of all true obedience, especially loving others (Colossians 1:4-5).

3) All of us have failed to glorify God as we should *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).

What does it mean to "fall short of the glory of God?" It means that none of us has trusted and treasured God the way we should. We have not been satisfied with his greatness and walked in his ways. We have sought our satisfaction in other things, and treated them as more valuable than God, which is the essence of idolatry (Romans 1:21-23). This is true of us, and it is true of our children. Since sin came into the world we have all been deeply resistant to having God as our all-satisfying treasure (Ephesians 2:3). This is an appalling offense to the greatness of God (Jeremiah 2:12-13).

4) All of us are subject to God's just condemnation *"The wages of sin is death..."* (Romans 6:23).





Our Home God or Idols

To help our children to bring God into the picture of their daily lives and circumstances there are two steps:

1. Recognise: Children are _____ to _____,
Romans 1:18-20, 22-25,

(Genesis 1:26-27) "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion ..." {27} So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

(Matthew 28:19) ""Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"

(1 Thessalonians 5:23) "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

(Ecclesiastes 3:11) "... He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end."

(Romans 11:36) "For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen."

(1 Timothy 2:3-4) "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, {4} who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

(Psalms 86:9) "All nations whom You have made Shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And shall glorify Your name."

(Philippians 2:9-11) "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, {10} that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, {11} and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

(Colossians 1:16) "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."

(Psalms 51:5) "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, ..."

(Proverbs 22:15) "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; ..."

(Psalms 138:1) "I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods I will sing praises to You."

(Acts 17:16) "... at Athens, ... he saw that the city was given over to idols."

(Ephesians 5:5) "For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has



any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."

(1 John 5:21) "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."

(1 John 5:20) "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life."

(Philippians 4:8) "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, ... noble, ... just, ... pure, ... lovely, ... of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; meditate on these things."



2. Lead your children in _____ of _____,
Psalm 145:1-9

(Deuteronomy 6:5-7) ""You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. {6} "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. {7} "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."

(Jeremiah 2:13) ""For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns; broken cisterns that can hold no water."

(Isaiah 55:1-2) ""Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; ... {2} Why do you spend money

for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance."

(Matthew 11:28-30) ""Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. {29} "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. {30} "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.""

(Luke 18:16) "... "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God."

(John 7:37) "... "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink."

(Luke 6:27-28) ""But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, {28} "bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you."

(Proverbs 4:23) "Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life."
(Luke 6:45) ""A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

