

**The Normal Christian Life**  
**The Eternal Purpose**  
**(Chapter 7)**

The Great Divine Goal

1. **Read the following excerpt:**

a. In Romans 3:23 we read: "All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God." God's purpose for man was glory, but sin thwarted that purpose by causing man to miss God's glory. When we think of sin we instinctively think of the judgment it brings; we invariably associate it with condemnation and hell. Man's thought is always of the punishment that will come to him if he sins, but God's thought is always of the glory man will miss if he sins. The result of sin is that we forfeit God's glory: the result of redemption is that we are qualified again for glory. God's purpose in redemption is glory, glory, glory.—*The Normal Christian Life*, p. 106

2. What is God's purpose in creation, and what is His purpose in redemption? Hint: Rom. 3:23 & Rom. 8:21

- a. Eternity
- b. Glory
- c. Happiness
- d. Destiny

3. **Fill in the blank:** Because those whom He \_\_\_\_\_, He also \_\_\_\_\_ to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers; And those whom He predestinated, these He also \_\_\_\_\_; and those whom He called, these He also \_\_\_\_\_; and those whom He justified, these He also \_\_\_\_\_. Rom. \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_.

Firstborn Among Many Brethren

4. **Read the following excerpt:**

a. The divine purpose in creation and redemption was that God should have many children. He wanted us, and could not be satisfied without us. Some time ago I called to see Mr. George Cutting, the writer of the well-known tract *Safety, Certainty, and Enjoyment*. When I was ushered into the presence of this old saint of ninety-three years, he took my hand in his and in a quiet, deliberate way he said: "Brother, do you know, I cannot do without Him? And do you know, He cannot do without me?" Though I was with him for over an hour, his great age and physical frailty made any sustained conversation impossible. But what remains in my memory of that interview was his frequent repetition of these two questions: "Brother, do you know, I cannot do without Him? And do you know, *He cannot do without me?*"—*The Normal Christian Life*, pp. 107-108

5. Sonship – the full expression of His Son– is God's goal in the many \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. children
  - b. heirs
  - c. sons
  - d. sinners
6. How could God's only Begotten Son (John 3:16) become His Firstborn Son (John 20:17)? Read and use the quoted verses in the Gospel of John to explain.

## The Choice That Confronted Adam

7. **Fill in the blank:** God planted a great number of trees in the garden of Eden, but "in the midst of the garden"—that is, in a place of special prominence—He planted two trees, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the tree of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
8. **Read the following excerpt:**
  - a. Two planes of life had been set before Adam: that of Divine life in dependence upon God, and that of human life with its "independent" resources. Adam's choice of the latter was sin, because thereby he allied himself with Satan to thwart the eternal purpose of God. He did so by choosing to develop his manhood—to become perhaps a very fine man, even by his standards a "perfect" man—apart from God. But the end was death, because he had not in him the divine life necessary to realize God's purpose in his being, but had chosen to become instead an "independent" agent of the enemy. Thus, in Adam we all become sinners, equally dominated by Satan, equally subject to the law of sin and death, and equally deserving of the wrath of God—*The Normal Christian Life*, p. 114
9. Adam chose a self-life rather than the divine life; so God had to gather up all that was in Adam and do away with it. How did God do away with all of Adam?
  - a. Reformation
  - b. Improvement
  - c. Crucifixion
  - d. Refinement

## They Are All of One

10. God's desire is for sons who shall be joint-heirs with Christ in glory. That is His goal; but how can He bring that about? Use **Heb. 2:10-11** to explain
11. **Read the following excerpt:**
  - a. Do you notice that, in this consideration of the eternal purpose, the whole question of sin ultimately goes out? It no longer has a place. Sin came in with Adam, and even when it has been dealt with, as it has to be, we are only brought back to the point where Adam was. But in relating us again to the divine purpose—in, as it were, restoring to us access to the tree of life—redemption has given us far more than Adam ever had. It has made us partakers of the very life of God Himself—*The Normal Christian Life*, pp. 118-119.
12. Take the remaining time in your group to share in your own words what you understand of the Eternal Purpose of God.