



50 Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die

Part 7

32. To enable us to live for Christ and not ourselves

We Christians MUST remember that it is not about us

- One of the most devastating lies I can think of is widely taught throughout the church in America. The lie is this...the universe is all about you. You might be thinking, WHAT!?! I've never heard any preacher say that. Tell me this, have you ever heard the expression "The Bible is God's "love letter" to us?"¹ If so, then you have heard it taught that the universe is all about you. Think about the implications of this phrase. If the Bible is a love letter to you, the YOU are what the Bible is all about. If the Bible tells us about the very heart of God, and it is a love letter to you, then the God who made and sustains the universe places YOU at the very center of it. YOU are the most important thing EVER! Family, IT IS A LIE. The Bible isn't about you, it's about God. You are not the main character of this story, God is. God is all about God. His word, the Bible is all about Him.

God is about about God

(1) God creates all things to declare his glory

- ❖ Psalm 19:1--*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

(2) God creates us for his own glory

- ❖ Isaiah 43:6-7--*I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory,*

(3) God sends Jesus for his own glory

- ❖ John 17:1--*Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,*

(4) God saves us for his own glory

- ❖ Ephesians 1:4-6--*he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace,*

(5) God answers prayers for his own glory

- ❖ John 14:13--*Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

(6) God raises and brings down world leaders for his own glory

- ❖ Romans 9:17--*the Scripture says to Pharaoh, For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.*
- ❖ Exodus 14:4--*And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.*

(7) God is passionate about his glory, jealous for his own glory, does all things for his own glory

- ❖ Isaiah 48:9-11--*For my name's sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. 10 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. 11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.*

¹ <http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Billy-Graham-Bible-is-God-s-love-letter-to-us-1246557.php#ixzz2HPVWSrit>



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Objections

- (1) Some will say, didn't Jesus die to forgive US, save US, justify US, sanctify US, adopt US, glorify US? Aren't we the point of it all? Yes, Jesus came and died to accomplish all of those things for us. No, we are the point of it all. The point of it all is not our value and worth. The point of it all is God's value and worth. The point of the bible is not that God would make much of man. The point of the Bible is that man would know God and make much of Him.
- (2) Doesn't what you're saying make God a narcissist? I hate narcissists! No, for two reasons...
 - i. Human narcissism is bad because it is untrue. A narcissist believes that they are the center of the universe. We hate this because it's obnoxious and untrue. We know full well that no person is the center of the universe and thus when someone acts and believes that they are it is gross and stupid. However, God is the center of the universe. He literally "upholds the universe by the word of his power" (Hebrews 1:3). So with God, it's not narcissism, it's just true.
 - ii. The fact that God does all things for His own glory is a really good thing for us. God made us and fashioned us to know and enjoy his glory. This is why the Psalmist says...
 - ❖ Psalm 16:11--*in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*We desperately need God to glorify himself in all things. Because his glory brings us fulness of joy. His glory is so unending it is described as pleasures forevermore. Also, If God didn't care about glorifying himself through showing mercy, you would be left dead in your trespasses.

Jesus died that we might live for his glory

- So we see that God is all about God. Thus when Jesus dies for us, we should expect that this is indeed for the glory of God as well. We should expect that Jesus dies that we too might be all about the glory of God. We should expect to see Christians utterly captivated by God's glory and living for God's glory. Sure enough, this is exactly what we see in scripture...
 - Captivated by God's glory
 - ❖ Acts 5:12-42, though the apostles endured persecution, they refused to quit preaching Jesus and glorifying God.
 - ❖ Acts 6-8 Stephen dies for the Gospel of Christ and the glory of God
 - ❖ Philippians 3:7-9--*whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him,*
 - Living for God's glory
 - ❖ 2 Corinthians 5:15--*he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 10:31--*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*
- We are to be all about Jesus. He died that we would live for His glory.

33. To make His cross the ground of all our boasting



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- ❖ Galatians 6:12-15--*It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.*

People are always looking for something to add to themselves to add worth.

- We are not immune from this practice either. If you get a stellar performance report at work, doesn't add to your feeling of self-worth? If you have a 4.0 gpa doesn't that make you feel a little more qualified? Sports fans, if your team wins the championship don't you walk around with a little more swag? Ladies, at one point or another in your life didn't your looks determine, at least in part, your own self worth? The simple reality is that we are constantly grabbing on to things that help us feel more important, more special, more valuable and when we find something they become the ground for our boasting. We end up sub-consciencely telling our selves that we are successful because of our performance report, we are smart because of our 4.0, we rock because our team dominates, and we are valuable because we are physically attractive.

We must not do this

- Notice that Paul doesn't say that circumcision itself is a bad thing. Likewise, it isn't bad to get a stellar performance report, it is bad to maintain a 4.0 gpa, it isn't bad when your team wins the championship, and it isn't bad to be beautiful. All of those things in and of themselves are great. Paul teaches however we must not boast in those things. We must not access our worth by those things. Why?

You are to find your worth in the cross of Jesus

- These things are notoriously treacherous. Some years you have a boss who really appreciates your hard work. Some years you might have a boss who thinks you're an idiot. What will you do then? College students know that some professors give high grades for content and are slack on grammar and writing style. Other professors only care about your mastery of turabian formatting. Unless your an Alabama football fan, any sports team is bound to make you bi-polar. If you have stunning physical beauty, what will you do when you're old, fat, and hobbly? The cross of Christ never changes. It declares all who cling to it to be you to be holy, and causes all who cling to it to grow in holiness.
- Nothing else in this world even come close to doing this. Nothing in this world can make you worthy in the sight of God. Thus isn't it foolish to find our self worth in something that doesn't actually add to your worth. There is only one thing that makes us worthy. One thing ALONE! The cross of Christ.

34.To enable us to live by faith in Him

- ❖ Galatians 2:20--*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

From our death, comes life



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- We have already discussed this reality. We died to sin that we might live to righteousness. We died to the law that we might be under grace. What we haven't discussed much yet is, who am I now?



What is this new life?

(1) One that is indwelt by the Spirit of God

- ❖ Galatians 2:20--*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me*
- Does this mean a tiny Jesus crawls inside your body? No. It is not Christ in the flesh but his very Spirit that indwells us
 - ❖ Acts 2:38--*And Peter said to them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 6:19--*do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?*
- What are the implications of this?
 - i. The Holy Spirit is God--sometimes we forget that Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force. He is a person and he is God.
 - ❖ John 14:26--*But the **Helper**, the Holy Spirit, **whom** the Father will send in my name, **he** will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*
 - ❖ Acts 5:3-4--*But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit** and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to man but to God.**"*
 - ii. The person within us--we must NEVER forget that the person who indwells us is THE bad mamma jamma!
 - Incomprehensible
 - ❖ Isaiah 55:8-9--*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*
 - ❖ Romans 11:33-34--*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"*
 - Self-existent, self-sufficient, eternal
 - ❖ Acts 17:24-25--*The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.*
 - Immutable
 - ❖ Malachi 3:6--*For I the LORD do not change;*
 - Omnipresent
 - ❖ Psalm 139:7-10--*Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the*



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morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

- Omniscient
 - ❖ 1 John 3:20--*for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.*
 - Omnipotent
 - ❖ Jeremiah 32:27--*Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?*
 - Completely Sovereign
 - ❖ Isaiah 46:8-11--*“Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.*
- (2) One who is empowered to live by faith--it is this person, the Holy Spirit, who empowers you to live by faith.
- ❖ Galatians 2:20--*...the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,*
 - What does this mean? It means that what you know the God who indwells you changes EVERYTHING about the way you live.