**Good News Church GA**

**Sermon Notes: Why Are We Here?**

**Text: Psalm 145**

*by Drue Warner*

1-8-23

**Why are we here?**

* Church?
* Good News Church?
* Planet Earth

**What are you trying to accomplish?**

* Purpose
* Pleasure
* Prosperity
* Peace

*“The two most important days of your life are the day you were born and the day you discover why.”* - Mark Twain

**FOCUS: What is our focus?**

* **It’s SO easy to lose focus!** Laura’s bike riding story. 😊

**RESOLUTIONS: Health & Well-Being**

**BIG ROCKS vs. BIG ROCK**

Every resolution is a smaller rock compared to one big rock from which all resolutions flow… satisfaction in God.

* **New Year's Resolution #1:** To REMEMBER that my best efforts to accomplish all additional resolutions will fail when relying only on my own will, determination and strength. Change occurs best when I surrender completely to God in prayer and faith and draw on the strength and power of His Spirit, through Christ, working in and through me.   
  Summary - I can't. He can.

**It’s our desire as a church to focus on health and growth**

**in every area of our lives.**

* Planet - environmental health (conservation, protection, sanitation)
* People - relational health (marriage, family, neighbors)
* Body - physical and mental health (nutrition, exercise, rest)
* Soul - spiritual health (purpose, identity, eternity)

**Be rooted and satisfied in Christ and let all other things flow from there.**

**Does Faith matter?**

* **Secularism (def):** The attempt to create a system of human flourishing in which the presence of God is absent.”
  + **Quote from a friend –** I’m sad to share the recent passing of my uncle. **Please keep his family in your thoughts.**
* **Faith (def):** Perceiving God in the mind, trusting God in the heart, and surrendering to God in the will.
  + **VIDEO: Prayer for Damar Hamlin on ESPN (1:50 min.)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1Vs59RDITc&t=40s>

* + - How awesome was that? So unusual, but a taste of something really good that we’re missing!

**Why am I here? 2 important questions:**

1. Whose Kingdom am I building?
2. Whose glory am I seeking?

**Purpose (i.e., Why am I here?)**

From the Westminster Shorter Catechism (1647)

* **Q1: What is the chief end of man?**
* A: Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

**Psalm 145:1-7**

1  I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. 2  Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. 3  Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

4  One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

5  They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

6  They tell of the power of your awesome works—and I will proclaim your great deeds. 7  They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

**Why would we want to glorify God?**

**Psalm 145:8-21**

8  The Lord is **gracious** and **compassionate,** **slow to anger** and **rich in love.**

9  The Lord is **good to all;** he has compassion on all he has made.

10  **All your works praise you,** Lord; your faithful people extol you. 11  They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, 12  so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

13  **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,** and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is **trustworthy** in all he promises and **faithful** in all he does.

14  The Lord **upholds** all who fall and **lifts up** all who are bowed down.

15  The eyes of all look to you, and **you give them their food** at the proper time.

16  You **open your hand** and **satisfy the desires** of every living thing.

17  The Lord is **righteous** in all his ways and **faithful** in all he does.

18  The Lord is **near to all who call on him,** to all who call on him in truth.

19  He **fulfills the desires** of those who fear him; he **hears their cry** and **saves them.** 20  The Lord **watches over** all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

21 My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

**Satisfying Glory**

*”God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.”* – John Piper

**What gives you joy?**

* **Beauty -** The experience of profound beauty
* **Love -** experienced, expressed, and embraced
* **Victory -** Your team winning a championship
* **Wealth -** being filled up and overflowing with riches and monetary gain
* **Delight -** laughter, delicious food and drink
* **Community -** family, friends, connection
* **Reward -** dividends of hard work (i.e., self-discipline, goals achieved, finish lines crossed, etc.)

As we consider the new year and all of the possible resolutions that may go with it, they’re all rooted in finding our satisfaction in *“glorifying God and enjoying Him.”*

**Why are you here? Because you are here, you have comprehended that “God has set eternity in your heart.” (Eccl. 3:11)**

You have either been impacted by God, you desire to be impacted by God, or both.

Either way, you have discovered (by God’s grace) that there is more to life than only what you can see, touch, taste, hear, and feel.

**As God has blessed us, we are called to be a blessing (Abraham - Gen. 12:1-4)**

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. **2**“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. **3**I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”**4**So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.

* **BiOY (1-6-23) The church is blessed, like Abraham and Israel, not for its own sake but in order to bring blessing to the whole world.** If you have been blessed by God, it is not for your own selfish indulgence or self-congratulation; it is in order that you can be a blessing to others.

**------------------------**

**VIDEO: The Field of Eternity (3:21 min.)**

<https://skitguys.com/videos/the-field-of-eternity>

For over 150 years, men have bruised and battled on fields like this, fighting for inches, foot by foot, yard by yard, they go to war, all for the glory of the game.

Funny thing about glory, though. It doesn’t last too long, does it?

This life is barely a second in the scope of eternity. And eternity, that’s an overtime game that’s much harder to comprehend.

What if we thought of it this way? What if we measured time by the length of this football field? The Bible tells us that one day is like 1,000 years and 1,000 years is like one day.

If we measured time by the length of this field, then 100 yards would be 1,000 years. The 50-yard line would be like 500 years. And at the 10-yard line, this is where we live our lives. First and ten (plus or minus a decade), day after day, “living in the red zone.” But in this 8, 9, 10 yards that we fought over every inch for, how do we know whether we’re winning or losing?

God has a different way of measuring a yard, a year, or even a thousand years.

God’s thousand years, the long suffering. His new day is full of new mercy. That midnight hour is there for a second chance.

Time never holds him back or forces him forward. The moments of someone’s life stolen away too early by death, they’re multiplied without end on the banquet table of eternity. Our agonizing wait is but a drop in the bucket of His goodness and grace.

All those seconds that go by (inches played out)on the giant field of eternity) is God’s perfect plan played out in a precision that we can’t even fathom. Thankfully, we don’t have to understand it. All we have to do is “trust Him.”

How will your years (your season in this world) be measured? Yards fought and won or by trusting in “the One” who can get you down the field of eternity… and He doesn’t even break a sweat.

**------------------------**

**Satisfying Glory**

*”Wanna be happy for an hour? Eat a steak. Wanna be happy for a day? Play golf. Wanna be happy for a week? Go on a cruise. Wanna be happy for a lifetime? Put your faith in Jesus Christ.”* – Coach Lou Holtz

**God’s primary message in life…“Trust Me.”**

**Why are we here?**

We are here because God has been gracious to us (in all that Christ has done for us) and, out of the profound gratitude of our hearts, we respond by living for His glory and the building up of His Kingdom… which results in the deepest satisfaction we could ever imagine.

**And THAT’S Good News!**