TITLE: All for His Glory

TEXT: Col. 1:15-20, 2:9-10; Phil. 3:7-11; Psalm 72:19

INTRODUCTION: Have you ever asked yourself the question: why am I really here? What is my specific purpose in life? How do I fit in to God’s greater plan?

 Whether put in those exact words or not it is a question, I believe, we all have had at one time in our lives.

 There is a pretty amazing Scripture that gives us the answer to the above questions….

**Colossians 1:15-20(NIV)**  **15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.**  **16For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.**  **17He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**  **18And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.**  **19For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,**  **20and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.**

**21Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.
22But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—
 23if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.**

**This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.**

 This answers a lot of our questions about why we are here.

**16For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.
17He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
18And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.
19For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him…**

The Living Bible says it this way…..

 **Colossians 1:15-23(TLB)
15Christ is the exact likeness of the unseen God. He existed before God made anything at all, and, in fact,
16Christ himself is the Creator who made everything in heaven and earth, the things we can see and the things we can’t; the spirit world with its kings and kingdoms, its rulers and authorities; all were made by Christ for his own use and glory.
17He was before all else began and it is his power that holds everything together.
18He is the Head of the body made up of his people—that is, his Church—which he began; and he is the Leader of all those who arise from the dead, so that he is first in everything;
19for God wanted all of himself to be in his Son.**

 In these verses we find many great truths…

#1. Christ is the Image of the unseen God.. He is the firstborn over all creation and, is in fact, the creator of everything that has ever been created, both in Heaven and on earth. Jesus is God incarnate.

**17He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

 Christ is the glue that holds our world and everything in it together. There is nothing that is going on today that He does not know and understand the why of it.

 He knows why the US economy is in the toilet. He knows why we have high unemployment in America. He knows why our world seems to be on the brink of global collapse.

 He sees and understands our hurts and our fears and our troubled times.

 And it is in Him that all things are holding together….

#2. **18And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.
19For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.**

 Why are you here? Why am I here? What is our real and primary purpose in life?

You were created by Him and For Him. I was created by Him and for Him. We were created by Him so that He could have supremacy in our life.

 In human terms this may not sound like so good of a deal --that we were created to be subservient to someone else.

 I mean, in our sinful natures the last thing that we want is to be subservient, to allow someone else to be in control of our life.

 If you want to get my goad then tell me I can’t do something or that I have to do something.

 What is our usual response to that? Who are you to tell me what I can or cannot do?

 So why do we expect it to be any different when it comes to Jesus wanting to have supremacy over our life?

 Because He is the reason that we exist in the first place!

 And unlike placing ourselves in submission to our fellow man-- Christ is perfect in every way…

**…So that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.**

The perfection of Christ should make it easy for us to place ourselves in submission to Him.

 Because in His perfection Jesus would never ask us to do anything other than what is the absolute best for us anyway…

 Paul speaks of the perfection of Christ in:

**Colossians 2:9-10(NIV)**  **9For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,**  **10and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.**

**For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form…**

 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity, all the fullness of God, lives in bodily form…

In Greek literature, Virgil wrote about the plight of humanity and how something new needed to be done to help man out of his predicament.

 In Greek thought, God was removed, a mere spectator, like someone observing a play in an amphitheater or a stadium—sometimes interfering in a helpful way, sometimes interfering in ways that were harmful.

There have been all kinds of weird notions about God expressed in the writings of humankind.

Shakespeare, for example, in “King Lear” gave expression to some of this kind of thinking when he cried out, *As flies to wanton boys are we to the gods. They kill us for their sport*.

It is the Christian belief that Jesus of Nazareth fully disclosed God—who he was and what he was and what motivated him. That disclosure reveals itself in love.

 And further, we believe that this loving God has a desire to have fellowship with you and me. He not only wants to know us, he wants us to know him.

Karl Barth, a profound theologian of our century, put it this way: Either Jesus Christ was actually God, or he was not, or we do not have a full revelation of God yet.

Actually we do have a pretty full revelation of God because God gave it to us within His Word, and part of that revelation is that God is perfect in all manner of perfection….

 In speaking to the Christian Scripture says this:

 **For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.**

We have been given fullness in Christ!

Greek word for Fullness:

***play'-ro-mah* *repletion* or *completion*, that is, what *fills* or what is *filled*—which is put in to fill up, fulfilling, full, fullness.**

 We have been given fullness in Christ! We have been given repletion or completion in Christ….

 I like the thought of repletion in Christ….

Repletion is defined as:

**1. State of being gorged: a condition of being overfull after eating too much**

**2. State of being satisfied: the condition of being fully satisfied.**

 We have been given fullness in Christ!

 Jesus has made it possible that we can become gorged with Himself, we can actually become satisfied in His fullness…

 Think of how you feel after Thanksgiving dinner…

 Often so stuffed that the only thing to do that makes sense is take a nap ….

 That is what God wants for us as far as Himself is concerned. **The condition of being fully satisfied.**

 **For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ..**

 We have been given fullness in Christ but we must allow ourselves to be filled with that fullness…

 **For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.
 But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.**

 **For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form…..**

 Why?

 **For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things…**

 Christ was given all the fullness of God so that we could be reconciled to God…..

 And then we are given of Christ fullness to help us be used by God to draw others to Himself….to help reconcile a lost world to Christ.

 How do we receive and then continue to live in the fullness of God?

 **If you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.**

 Continue in our faith and not be moved from the hope of the Gospel….

 Many today have departed from the faith and moved from the hope of the Gospel…..

 I have seen it time and time again in talking with men

who once believed and walked in faith and obedience to the Lord, and then because of difficulty or what they may see as hypocrisy in the Church in other believers, or the questions raised by the untimely death of a loved one, they have not continued in the faith, and have in fact, been moved from the hope held out in the Gospel.

 Most of them have seemed to lose all perspective of life and why they are really here…**…So that in everything he might have the supremacy.**

 No where in Scripture can we find a better example of coming to the truth of our need for God and to fulfill His purpose in our life than with the Apostle Paul…

Paul says this is:

 **Philippians 3:7-11(NIV)**  **7But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.**  **8What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ
9and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.
10I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,**  **11and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.**

 Before Paul came to Christ he was known as Saul of Tarshish. He was an up and coming religious leader among the Pharisees.

 He went around persecuting the early Church thinking that he was doing God service. He was even there the day the first Church martyr, Stephen, was killed for his faith in Christ and was even consenting unto his death….. He actually held the cloaks of those throwing the rocks.

 Paul came from a well to do family with a proud Jewish heritage. In today’s terms he was an up and coming young man with a good income and a well planed 401K retirement account.

 And then, when on the road to Damascus, he has a life changing encounter with Jesus Christ and discovers why he is really here…..

**7But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.
8What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.**

 In other words---Take my prestigious job among the Pharisees, take my six figure income, take my waterfront property on the sea of Galilee, take my retirement portfolio—for now I conceder them rubbish, garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him….

 We see the real heart change within Paul as he makes His plea to God in verse 10….

**10I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,
11and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.**

 Paul got it! It wasn’t about him but it was all about God! It was about a personal saving relationship with Christ.. It was about spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ…It was all about how he could fulfill Gods purpose and plan for his life…

 What God wanted from the Apostle Paul is what He wants from you and me also….

 He wants us to come into a personal, saving relationship with Himself. He wants us to give our all to Him so that He can use us in great and mighty ways to fulfill the same Gospel message leading others into the Kingdom of God…

 He wants to fill us, saturate us, with his presence so we can be fully satisfied in life and reflect His presence in our world.

 Why are you really here? Why am I really here? What is the purpose of our existence? We are all here for His Glory!

**17He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
18And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.**

This morning are you fulfilling your purpose in life? More importantly, are you fulfilling His purpose with your life? Have you given Him supremacy?

 Is it the burning desire of your heart to **want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.**

How is your life being lived for His glory?

A Psalm of Solomon…

**Psalms 72:19(NIV)
19 Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.**