

## WEEK 3

### God's Glory

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Ephesians 1:9-11

I am a PK, Preacher's Kid. I was born when my parents were at Bible college, and shortly thereafter, my dad was hired as the pastor of a small country church. So from a very young age, I was taught the Gospel. I don't know a life without knowing about God.

But in my upbringing, I was always under the impression that I (or rather we as human beings) was the focus of God's plan. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for me so that I could spend eternity with Him. Even last week we saw that He chose to bring us into His family because He wanted to.

How encouraging it was to know that the God of the universe chose me to be with Him just because He wanted to and it gave Him pleasure. I must be very important and special, right?!

Yes, this is right. We are important to God. We are the apple of His eye (Psalm 17:9) and our name is inscribed on His hands (Isaiah 49:16). He sent His one and only Son so that we would not perish (John 3:16).

But this is not His primary purpose.

Paul, in these verses, does not say that God's mysterious will regarding Christ Jesus is to make sure that mankind is redeemed. His plan is that at the right time He will bring everything under the authority of Christ. This includes our redemption, but, as we will learn in next few weeks, our redemption was so that we would praise and glorify God.

Ultimately, God is at the center of everything. His chief purpose is His glory. Those who accept His salvation bring Him glory. Eventually, those who reject Him will also bring Him glory. All things, for all time, were created for His glory.

Ironically, this did not take away from my encouragement, nor did it nullify my being special. All it did was adjust my perspective. The God of the universe chose me to bring Him glory. He chooses to use me to accomplish His purpose. When I replace "I" with "He" there is freedom to rest in Him.

**QUESTION:** Are you resting in knowing that God is at the center of everything, and things do not depend on you?

**WALK IT OUT:** When you are worrying about someone or something, ask yourself this question: "How can I glorify God in this?" No matter the outcome if God is glorified, you have fulfilled His purpose.

PRAYER : Dear God, I have the tendency to try to be in control. Sometimes I think that I am at the center of all things keeping a dozen balls in the air. But You are the One Who is in control, and I simply need to bring You glory. Show me how to glorify You in ALL things.