

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## WHY ARE WE HERE?

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**W**e might say, “We are here to worship God.” Or, we might think of *Ecclesiastes 12:13* which reveals a valid purpose statement: “*Fear God and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man*”. While these answers are excellent to answer the question of this article, we want to broaden our focus and suggest that our purpose on earth is to “*glorify God*”. Under this broad canopy, we worship and fear God, always obeying His commandments. Let us examine some other specifics that fall under glorifying God.

We offer the opportunity for God to be glorified by presenting to others the Gospel of Christ. Saving sinners, even the chief of sinners, manifests God’s mercy, thus making Him deserving of “*glory for ever and ever*” (*1 Timothy 1:12-17*). God did not consult with man when He purposed to save men through the Gospel in Christ. Before revealed, it was a mystery. Now manifested, It exalts the One behind it all. Therefore “*to the only wise God through Jesus Christ to whom be glory for ever*” (*Romans 11:33-36, 16:25-27*). Saving sinners

through the Gospel glorifies God. When we are busy in teaching others this saving message, we are providing the opportunity for God to be glorified.

Along with teaching others, we glorify God when we do good works. These are the works or deeds authorized by God for when men see us do them, “*they will glorify your Father who is in heaven*” (*Matthew 5:16*). As the author of good works, He receives the glory when people witness us doing them. When we walk in good works, we are carrying out God’s preparatory plan, thus glorifying Him (*Ephesians 2:10*). Are you zealous for good works? If not, maybe you need to rethink why you are here (*Titus 2:14*).

When we keep ourselves sexually pure, we glorify God in our bodies (*1 Corinthians 6:20*). The sexual desire is in God’s creation. But it was never to be used in an illicit way. “*But the body is not for fornication*” (*1 Corinthians 6:13*). We belong to Christ, for He paid the price with his blood to redeem us from sin. We should “*glorify God*” therefore in our “*body*” (*1 Corinthians 6:20*). Thinking of controlling our bodies,

to glorify God will help us in those critical moments when we are tempted to give in to our lusts. Possessing our own vessel in purity transcends our physical existence, unto the spiritual, exalting the One who is above the heavens.

When we suffer for following Christ, God is glorified. In following the Lord, we will do that which is right, according to the standard of righteousness: the gospel of Christ (*Romans 1:17*). When we live according to this principle, we will find ourselves in conflict with the world’s thinking, and often suffer for it (*2 Timothy 3:12*). When the world is speaking evil of us for doing what God says is right, and ostracize us because we follow Christ as Christians, we “*should not be ashamed*”, but we should “*glorify God in this name*” (*1 Peter 4:16*).

When we desire to glorify God, we will teach others the gospel, manifest good works, control our bodies in sexual purity, and uncompromisingly exalt the name of Christian. We will be fulfilling our purpose for being here.