

WHY DID GOD CREATE?

As we answer questions that you placed in the box you will notice that there are three kinds of questions

The question that addresses a controversial topic where there is confusion

The question that addresses a topic that is relatively obscure and isn't preached about / taught very often

The question that there isn't an answer to ... God didn't tell us

The question tonight falls primarily into that last category

Why did God create? The Bible doesn't tell us.

Short answer ... "For His glory" ... because God always does what glorifies Him

He has to ... if He didn't He would be an idolater

* We can either go home now ... or we can investigate the issue by looking at the grand story of the Bible to see if it gives us some insight

How is God glorified through creation?

The heavens declare the glory of God – we saw that last week

How about man ... what is our purpose?

Shorter Westminster Catechism asks, "What is the chief end of man?"

To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Piper, "To glorify God by enjoying Him forever"

God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him

Talking to a friend recently who said he would change the answer "To glorify God by enjoying Him and dwelling with Him forever."

There is something to that ... that is where the Story starts and that is where the story ends

God dwelling with His image-bearers

Let's see if we can develop that thought through God's account of history as recorded in the Bible

Let's begin before the beginning ... Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning" **FIRST SCREEN**

Remember, time was created by God ... He is outside of time ... when He creates it is the beginning for all that He created

Why did God create? Certainly no need to create **SECOND SCREEN**

He was completely satisfied in / with Himself ... there was nothing lacking in God

Read the quote from Jonathan Edwards

Read the quote from Tim Keller

Think about that last line, “You were made for mutually self-giving, other-directed love.”

As an image bearer, we were created to enjoy the delights known and experienced by the Triune God.

A loving relationship with Him that reveals His glory **SCREEN THREE**

You are on your own ... next screen

Last Screen Think about how this model changes the emphasis of the gospel

Think about how it changes the way we present the gospel

If we can get them to believe the right things and pray the right prayer they can be saved from hell

The gospel is presented to be something in my best interest ... for my glory

Not glorifying God by enjoying Him forever

Interesting, “heaven” becomes the default choice ... We don’t want to go to hell

Dwelling with God forever?

Anxiously awaiting the return of Jesus Christ?

That isn’t what we want in this life ... why would we want it forever?

“The critical question for our generation – and for every generation, is this: If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasure you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven if Jesus wasn’t there?”

John Piper in “God is the Gospel”