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At this present time I am celebrating twenty years of consistent in-depth study of the Word of God. The ministry has given me numerous preaching and teaching opportunities in many different denominations. In preparation for this particular study, I have come to this conclusion. Many people profess to love the Lord. It does not matter the denomination or the size of the ministry. In addition, they all have one thing in common. Man has a cavernous desire to possess the ability to control his circumstances and ultimately his destiny. This is evident whether man is saved or not. Man's desire and passion to gain this power to control circumstances is the motivation for his behavior. Man will take great strides to achieve in positions of influence politically, financially and socially, all in an effort to control life. Yes, man longs for a world that he can control where circumstances are at the mercy of his will. Yes, man seeks POWER that simply does not belong to him. Therefore, in his pursuit of power and control if he does not center his life in the Lord he will miss the revelation that Jesus fulfilled in His death and Resurrection. In addition Paul reveals in *Ephesians 1:12* *That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.*

That we should be to the praise of his glory

- ✓ We should be the occasion or the means of celebrating his glory; or that praise should be ascribed to him as the result of our salvation.

God has decreed that we are to be the praise of this glory. In our position, we must endeavor to fulfill His purpose in our earthly experience. However, before we can fulfill God's purpose we must understand who we are and that we indeed have purpose.

There is over 6 billion people on the earth and only a remnant know why they exist.

1. Who is man?
  - a. The creature that was created in the image of God.
  - b. Genesis 1:26 he was created by a special and an immediate act of God
  - c. He consisted of two elements, the material and the nonmaterial Gen. 2:7
2. Why was man created? The Role of Man
  - a. Man was created for fellowship or communion with God. Unlike any of the other creatures, he has a fundamental likeness to God: he is created in the "image of God" Gen. 1:26-27.
  - b. Man meets and talks with God in the Garden of Eden Gen. 2:15-17
  - c. This was the original intention of God for man. It also becomes God's continuing intention, as He repeatedly intervenes to draw man back to Himself.
  - d. Ultimately, the Redeemer-Jesus--was sent for this reason to draw men back to the Father

3. Why was he put on the earth?
  - a. Man is not only to have fellowship with God; he is to glorify Him, by what he is and what he does 1 Cor. 10:31; Eph. 1:12
4. What is he to do?
  - a. Man is also created to do God's will and work. Man was created in God's image so he might "have dominion" over the rest of creation Gen. 1:26,28 or perform God's work of ruling the creation in His place.
  - b. This assignment of work to be done came before the FALL. As a result of the Fall, work took on its unpleasant or cursed character Gen. 3:17-19
5. Where is he going?
  - a. The Restoration of Man. God has acted to restore man to his original state of innocence and fellowship with God.
  - b. He has done this by sending His Son to die for man so man might be reconciled to God and be renewed or "born again" John 3:3,7
  - c. The aim of this is to restore man to a dynamic, vital relationship with God Rom. 6:4; 2 Cor. 5:20
  - d. Man is most fully human when fulfilling the intention of God for him: worshiping, serving, and loving God. Of all creatures, only man has been given this blessed privilege.

*Rev 21:3-8* And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.