

“The Ultimate Purpose Of Salvation”

Ephesians 2:7

Sermon Series: “Be Rich”

Introduction: What is the ultimate purpose of salvation according to the Bible? I think there is some confusion regarding the answer to this question, and people get the answer wrong sometimes. Even more commonly, people give an answer that is part of salvation but not necessarily the ultimate purpose of salvation. So what is the ultimate purpose?

Main Idea: The ultimate purpose of salvation is the glory of God so the only possible means of salvation is the grace of God.

This statement expresses the flow of what Paul is saying in Ephesians 2:1-10, particularly in verse 7. The first word of verse 7, “that,” expresses purpose so the meaning is that Jesus has raised spiritually dead sinners to life by His grace for the purpose of us eternally glorifying God as trophies of His grace. This is what was also expressed in verses 6, 12, and 14 of chapter 1.

1. The ultimate purpose of salvation is the glory of God.

A. The nature of the glory of God: Rick Warren writes, “It’s all for him. The ultimate goal of the universe is to show the glory of God. It is the reason for everything that exists, including you. God made it all for his glory. Without God’s glory, there would be nothing. What is the glory of God? It is who God is. It is the essence of his nature, the weight of his importance, the radiance of his splendor, the demonstration of his power, and the atmosphere of his presence. God’s glory is the expression of his goodness and all his other intrinsic, eternal qualities” (see Isaiah 6:3, 42:8, 43:7; Romans 11:36, 1 Chronicles 16:29). It is vital for us to understand the ultimate design and purpose so everything else can be ordered around that. John Piper writes, “If the pursuit of God’s glory is not

ordered above the pursuit of man’s good in the affections of the heart and the priorities of the church, man will not be well served and God will not be duly honored.”

B. We are trophies of grace who eternally receive God’s gracious kindness in Jesus Christ (Psalm 16:11, Revelation 7:13-17, 21:3-7). This is a great blessing to us, but it is only a byproduct of salvation.

C. We eternally glorify God.

-There is no boasting about self in heaven (2:9).

-God is eternally showing off His grace in us (1 Peter 1:3-12).

-We will be worshipping Jesus Christ forever (Revelation 5:1-14, 7:9-12).

2. The only possible means of salvation is the grace of God. If the purpose of salvation is the glory of God, we can only be saved by grace, which is God’s unmerited favor that causes Him to work on our behalf. If salvation were by works, we could take the credit for it and give the glory to ourselves instead of God (v. 8-10 flow out of verse 7, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31).

Application-How do we live for the glory of God now? All of these applications run counter to my pride and require humbling myself and dying to my flesh.

1. Be saved by humbling ourselves and giving up our self-righteousness and trusting Jesus alone (Philippians 3:3-11).

2. Boast only in the cross of Jesus (Galatians 6:14). This empowers us to live with security and humility (Galatians 5:26).

3. Abide in Jesus and bear fruit (John 15:1-8).

4. Worship (Hebrews 13:15).

5. Live in trusting dependence on the Lord (Romans 4:20).

6. Try to consciously do what we do for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

7. Missions (Psalm 67:3-4).