

Lesson 1 - The Human Being's Ultimate Purpose

1. Some observations on the significance of this question
 - a. In essence, what am I here for? What did God make me to do?
 - b. It's rather striking. Compare to the Heidelberg Catechism.
 - c. This does not talk about salvation. It talks about human beings in every state.
 - d. It's extremely practical. This is the goal.
 - e. We can do it anywhere!
 - f. The duty is enjoyment as well as service to God!
2. The importance of natural theology and beginning with creation
 - a. Notice WLC 2, WLC 2 How doth it appear that there is a God? A. The very light of nature in man, and the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; but his word and Spirit only, do sufficiently and effectually reveal him unto men for their salvation.
 - b. After God had made all other creatures, He created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after His own image, having the law of God written in their hearts . . . (WCF 4.2)
 - c. WLC 95 Of what use is the moral law to all men? A. The moral law is of use to all men, to inform them of the holy nature and will of God, and of their duty, binding them to walk accordingly . . .
 - d. Note that there is a knowledge of God that is available. People can have a knowledge of God and His will. There can be good insights (see Acts 17). We should still consider natural revelation.
3. What does it mean to glorify God?
 - a. WLC 104 What are the duties required in the first commandment? A. The duties required in the first commandment are, the knowing and acknowledging of God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly, by thinking, meditating, remembering, highly esteeming, honouring, adoring, choosing, loving, desiring, fearing of him; believing him; trusting, hoping, delighting, rejoicing in him; being zealous for him; calling upon him, giving all praise and thanks, and yielding all obedience and submission to him with the whole man; being careful in all things to please him, and sorrowful when in anything he is offended; and walking humbly with him (see also WLC 190).
 - b. My summation:
 1. Think about God. We are different from all other animals. We learn about Him through the creation and through Scripture. Belgic Confession: We know God by two means: First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God . . . (Article 2, cf. Psalm 19, Rom. 1, Matt. 6, etc.).

2. Marvel at God. Thinking about the One who created us. He made me just as I am.
 3. Praise God. God gave us voices to sing! He gave us minds and hearts to write.
 4. Submit to God. In His providence and commands.
4. What does it mean to enjoy God?
- a. Our ultimate end: WLC 1: Man's Chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever. Note with WSC 38: At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.
 - b. This is reflected now, WLC 83: The members of the invisible church have communicated to them in this life the first-fruits of glory with Christ, as they are members of him their head, and so in him are interested in that glory which he is fully possessed of; and, as an earnest thereof, enjoy the sense of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, and hope of glory . . .
 - c. My overview
 1. We enjoy God's favor.
 2. We enjoy the wonder of God.
 3. We enjoy the benefits God gives us.
 4. Take anything you enjoy in the creature, and see it in the Creator.