

Living Connections Bible Study

To the Praise of His Glory

Text: Ephesians 1:3-14



Prayer:

Ice Breaker: Most people want to know, *"Why am I here?" "How can I find satisfaction and fulfillment,"* and *"What is my purpose in life?"* How do you think most people would answer these questions today? And what advice would you give to someone looking for the answers to these questions.

1. What recurring theme do we find in Ephesians 1:3-14 in verses 6, 12 & 14?

2. What do you think it means to live to the praise of God's glory? 1 Corinthians 10:31, Matthew 5:16; 6:33; Ecclesiastes 9:10

3. What does Colossians 1:16 teach us about our purpose in life in relationship to our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ?

4. What do we learn about our purpose in life from Revelation 4:11, from the King James Version?

5. What do you think Jesus means by His words in Matthew 16:24-26; *If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?*

Let's take a look at four watchwords or character qualities that will help us all to live to the praise of God's glory.

God wants me to aim at ***Excellence***

6. How can we apply excellence in the use of our spiritual gifts and abilities to the ministries where God has privileged us to serve? 1 Corinthians 14:12 NKJV; 2 Timothy 1:6

7. Does aiming at excellence mean I must be an expert at something before I can serve God?

God wants me to be ***Faithful***

8. What will believers be judged for at the Judgment Seat of Christ according to 1 Corinthians 4:2 & Matthew 25:14-23?

9. Name as many areas as you can that we should be faithful in as stewards of God?

God wants my life to overflow with ***Compassion***

10. How would you define compassion?

11. What motivation should be behind all that we do for God? 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Mark 12:29-31; John 13:3

God desires us to work together in *Unity*

12. Read Psalm 133:1-2 and discuss how unity brings a complete anointing of God's Spirit when God's children are living and working together in unity.

13. How does a dew drop or a rain drop find real significance? Psalm 133:3

God wants His people to come together in unity as the dew drops and rain drops of Mt. Hermon, and the mountains on either side of the Jordan River...for when they all get together they form the Jordan River which is the life source of the land of Palestine.

14. What does God command when His people work together in unity? Psalm 133:3

Think about it this week

- What am I doing to promote unity in my church family?
- Am I aiming at excellence in my life and ministry for the glory of God?
- Am I seeking to be faithful as a good steward of all God has entrusted to me?
- How is the love and compassion of Christ being expressed through my life and ministry?