




For the kingdom of God
is not a matter of eating
and drinking, but of
righteousness, peace and
joy in the Holy Spirit

Romans 14:17, NIV



Whatever
happened
to
Joy?

*Joy & the Good
Purposes of God*



- ▶ If there is a problem under the hood, fix it/have it fixed— don't disconnect the indicator light!
- ▶ You shouldn't feel good about serious, correctable problems.
- ▶ You can feel good (joy) before the problem is fixed because you know who is fixing what is broken.

We must resolve the issue of life purpose to fix what's "under the hood."

What today's study is about

- ▶ *Our joy begins with **WONDER**.*
 - God's purpose: *Receive the worship only he deserves.*
- ▶ *Our joy deepens through **ADVERSITY**.*
 - God's purpose: *Transform us to be like Jesus.*
- ▶ *Our joy resonates with **ANTICIPATION**.*
 - God's purpose: *Finish the work of cosmic, complete renewal.*

1 Peter 1:3-5, NIV

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

1 Peter 1:3-5, NIV

This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice

Who do you worship—and why?

God's 1st purpose: receive the worship he deserves

- ▶ **Security, significance, setting your hope.**
 - Whatever gives you a sense of well-being and confidence in uncertainty is more than likely what you worship.
 - Your bank account, “can-do” spirit, determination, education, in-demand job skills, social network...
 - We all decide what we think works for us.

Who do you worship—and why?

God's 1st purpose: receive the worship he deserves

- ▶ **A big need resolved by an infinitely bigger God.**
 - God's mercy brings us new standing.
 - God's grace: he gives us “new birth.”
 - Our problem: ourselves, our nature.
 - Fresh start with a new nature—reborn.

Who do you worship—and why?

God's 1st purpose: receive the worship he deserves

▶ **A big need resolved by an infinitely bigger God.**

➤ Our new standing is secure!

- God's gift: *never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power*
- Both inheritance and heirs are under the protection of God Almighty, all-knowing.

Who do you worship—and why?

God's 1st purpose: receive the worship he deserves

- ▶ **A big need resolved by an infinitely bigger God.**
- Our salvation—a sliver of something bigger!
 - Our gospel is big in its actions and effect.
 - Our gospel is big in its scope: all creation turned right-side up!

Who do you worship—and why?

God's 1st purpose: receive the worship he deserves

▶ **The first word in our passage is the first word in our joy: *Praise*.**

- ▶ *Praise* is a joy word, *in this you greatly rejoice*, and a clue to true worship.
- ▶ Ignorant or cut off from the God of “great mercy” = worship the created + no lasting joy.
- ▶ Great understanding brings great worship and produces great joy!

Who do you worship—and why?

God's 1st purpose: receive the worship he deserves

- ▶ **The first word in our passage is the first word in our joy: *Praise*.**
 - But why is worship a big deal to God? Why is this one of his purpose? Is this all ego?
 - God is “holy”—above and beyond all else, the only one of his kind. O₂ or CO?
 - We are designed for relationship with him—and no one is like him.

God's 1st purpose: receive the worship he deserves

View the Milky Way—and the Gospel.

Believing and worshipping God are responses we make when God frees us from sin and gives us spiritual eyesight to see how amazing God is.

Is worshipping God going on under your hood?

1 Peter 1:6-7, NIV

⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith— of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Remember this guy?

- ▶ The
fiddle
player?



Who do you treasure—and why?

God's 2nd purpose: transform us to be like Christ

- ▶ **If we could travel through time and space.... Remember Nero?**
 - Life was getting far more difficult for these early believers. They were a minority with few guaranteed rights, actively persecuted for identifying with Jesus.
 - This was life and death, not inconvenience or stress. But their joy in Jesus was greater!

Who do you treasure—and why?

God's 2nd purpose: transform us to be like Christ

- ▶ **Sore toe or cold shoulder? Should we expect persecution?**
 - *Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven ...*

Mt 5:11,12, NIV

Who do you treasure—and why?

God's 2nd purpose: transform us to be like Christ

- ▶ **Job, Peter, & Tim Keller** (Ro 8:28 “good”).
 - Job’s resolve to believe God’s character stood firm though his dead children were still dead. His hope: God can raise the dead.
 - Peter addressed those being martyred for their faith, yet spoke of an overwhelming joy.
 - Tim Keller: “the good” is a good life, made like Jesus; not a charmed life, but a Christ-like life.

Who do you treasure—and why?

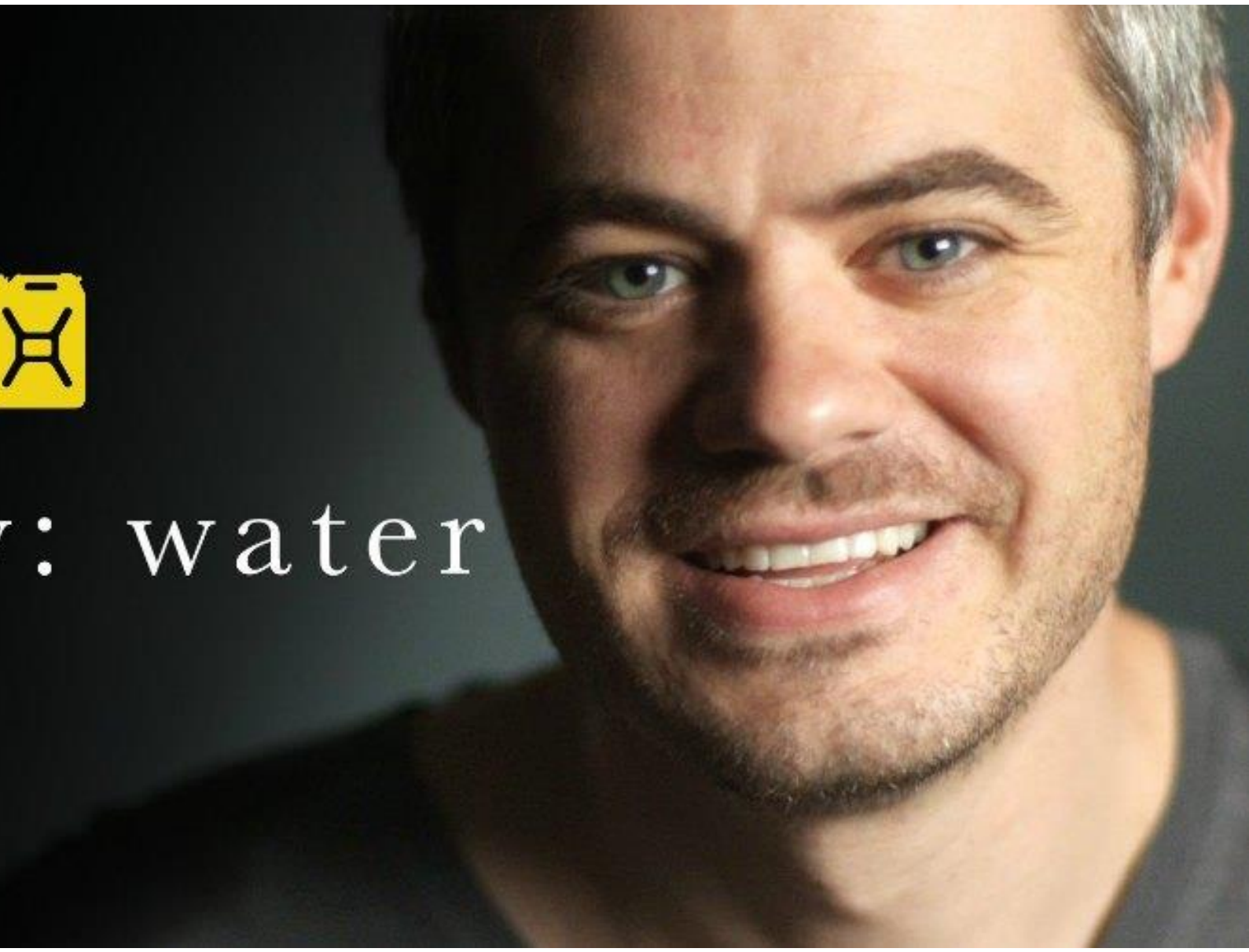
God's 2nd purpose: transform us to be like Christ

▶ ***Where your treasure is***

- ▶ Gold is so valuable to God that he paves the streets of heaven with it.
- ▶ What does God highly value? When we believe him and follow him regardless of the consequences. He is our great reward.
- ▶ We have great joy in him—transformation!



charity: water



God's 2nd purpose: make us like Christ

Hebrews 12:2,3 point out our transformation by testing:

...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Under the hood: comfort or conformity to Christ?

1 Peter 1:8-9, NIV

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Who do you long for—and why?

God's 3rd purpose: finish the work of renewal/salvation

▶ **Joy and love are intertwined.**

- ▶ Peter is clear: his readers are 2nd generation believers who did not personally witness Jesus' words, actions, or his resurrection.
- ▶ The witness of the Spirit and the words of eye-witnesses (Peter, Paul) did their work. The readers believe in and love Jesus.
- ▶ *Filled with glorious and inexpressible joy!*

Who do you long for—and why?

God's 3rd purpose: finish the work of renewal/salvation

- ▶ **Joy and faith produced by a person.**
 - These 2nd generation believers were right where we are. We too have the accounts of the eyewitnesses of Jesus and the Spirit.
 - Consider the evidence! There is one who died for you and who conquered death by dying and taking up his life again. Rejoice!

Who do you long for—and why?

God's 3rd purpose: finish the work of renewal/salvation

- ▶ **Joy and hope fulfilled in the future—yearning for the final, extreme makeover.**
 - “Salvation” in this passage has had both a cosmic and a personal perspective.
 - “The salvation of your souls” is the personal dimension brought to completion when we are eye-to-eye with Jesus—1 Jn 3:2,3.

Who do you long for—and why?

God's 3rd purpose: finish the work of renewal/salvation

▶ **Propositions or a Person—faith in someone I know.**

- ▶ Is my life motivated by a person worth loving back, by a person worth trusting when everything else says otherwise?
- ▶ Or do I stop at being “right” in my theological convictions?

God's 3rd purpose: renew of all things

The death & resurrection of Jesus put in motion the “fulfilment of all things.”

- Every knee will bow, every tongue confess that Christ is Lord. Believers will be like him for they will see him as he is.
- The groaning of the creation will end; no more death or disease or weeping because the old order is done forever. Rejoice!

Living in God's good purposes

- ▶ ***Worship***—security, significance, setting your hope. What disappoints you?
- ▶ ***Treasure***—going for the gold or genuine faith in a great Savior?
- ▶ ***Longing***—what's your best big thing?



For the kingdom
of God is not a
matter of eating
and drinking, but
of righteousness,
peace and joy in
the Holy Spirit ...

Romans 14:17, NIV