



We are all familiar with the scripture found in Revelation 4:11, which states, *"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."* Many songs of worship both in the past and present, are based on or stem from this scripture. It is a powerful scripture. Let's "set the stage" and put this scripture in its rightful context.

The Apostle John was privileged, in a vision, to get a glimpse of Heaven - in fact He is before the very throne of God. There was "One" who sat on the throne. Upon looking at the "One" seated on the throne, John gives this description, *"And He that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald."* (Revelation 4:3) John was describing, in the best way he could, the beauty, majesty and splendor of God, the Father - Yahweh Adonai. John continues to share with us the awesome scene he was witnessing by telling us about the "thunders and lightnings" that proceeded from the throne, as well as the four beasts that day and night continuously declared, *"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."* It was at this continuous declaration that the twenty-four elders bowed down and declared the words of the scripture we began with, *"Thou art worthy..."* Yes, our God is truly worthy of all the glory, honor and power. Yes, our God is truly worthy of all our praise. It is at this point that the twenty-four elders also declare a fascinating but yet many times overlooked truth. They go on to say, *"... for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."* This is a most remarkable and breathtaking truth concerning God and all of His creation. They declare that it was for the pleasure of God that **all things** are and were created.

If we look at the account back in Genesis 1, we read that God created and spoke into existence everything that we see around us today. He created the heavens and the earth, the sun, the moon and the stars. He created all the herbs, all the plants and all the trees. He created the animals and "beasts of the field." Colossians 1:16 goes further and declares, *"For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him."* Yes, ALL THINGS were created by God the Father, through Jesus the Son, in the creative and regenerative power and might of the Holy Spirit.

As we can see and as I have been emphasizing, the scriptures clearly tell us that all things were created by God and they were all created for His pleasure. That includes God's most precious creation - you and I, as well as all of Mankind, male and female. You and I were created for the purpose of delighting the heart of our Creator. It is for His pleasure, that He created all things and therefore all things are to give Him pleasure. If we go back to the scripture in Revelation 4:11 we can safely paraphrase it this way, **"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created me, and for your pleasure I was created."**

Many people, even many believers, wander about daily wondering what is their purpose in this life. Well, here is our purpose. This is what we should be doing with our life with every breath that God gives us. My purpose, your purpose, all of creation's purpose, is to simply give pleasure to the One who created all things to give Him pleasure - the only true God - Yahweh.

So how do we go about giving God pleasure? The very first way that anyone can truly bring pleasure to the heart of God is to believe and receive Jesus as his or her Savior and Lord. This delights the heart of God more than anything else does because in doing so the believer is restored back into a relationship with their God. Through sin, everyone was separated from God and was destined for "eternal death" which is simply being separated from God. In and through Jesus, an individual is brought back into relationship with God. This is eternal life - that we, through the blood atonement and resurrection of Jesus, are now able to *"know*

the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou (God the Father) hast sent." (John 17:3) Through Jesus, the believer is now one with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. (John 17:21) This, first and foremost, delights and gives the utmost pleasure to the heart of God. So much so that Luke 15:10 tells us that all heaven rejoices when even one who was lost (separated from God) is then found (restored back into relationship with their God).

Another way that we bring pleasure to our Creator is through our lives and lifestyle. Once we have been brought back into relationship with our God, we are now also the "sons and daughters" of God. We are His children and He is our Father. We are of His "Household of faith." We are to now represent our Father in every aspect of our lives. We do this through a loving obedience to His ways, His precepts and yes, His commandments. Jesus is very clear on this. He tells us in John 14:15, *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* As we live a lifestyle of holiness along with an attitude of heart of loving obedience to the ways of our God, this brings Him pleasure. So much so that he cannot help Himself but to pour out more and more of His blessings upon those that bring Him such great pleasure. Pouring more and more of who He is upon His children and upon those that love Him, gives our God tremendous pleasure. He delights in blessing His children.

This leads us to another aspect of bringing pleasure to the heart of our Creator. The scriptures tell us in great number to "bless the Lord." Psalm 103 is a perfect Psalm for this. *"Bless the Lord oh my soul and all that is within me bless His holy name."* Then it proceeds to express all the things that God has done for us. The psalmist then again expresses at the conclusion of the Psalm, *"Bless the Lord, O my soul."* However, I must admit that this has always puzzled me. How can I "bless the Lord?" What can I "bless" Him with? He has everything. Isn't it supposed to be the other way around? Don't we say "God bless America?" Isn't it God who does all the blessing? Isn't He supposed to bless us?

The word "bless" literally means to kneel and adore. When God pours out His blessings upon us, He is literally expressing His love and adoration to us His children. He is literally, bowing down to us, not in submission or obeisance, but rather as a Father who would bend down and bestow wonderful things onto His children. When God pours out all that He is to us, what should we as His children desire to do? Our desire should be that we could do nothing else but get down on our knees and adore Him right back with our "sacrifice of thanksgiving" and begin to "bless the heart of our King." Blessing the Lord and giving Him thanksgiving with an "attitude of gratitude" are synonymous terms.

The terms, "thanksgiving, thanks, and thankful" all come from the root Hebrew word, "yadah." It means to express and make a confession of gratitude. It also means to have deep appreciation of someone or something and the acknowledgment of being pleased by having your desires and needs satisfied and met. It is the acknowledgement of benefits and favor given to you by someone else. In this case we are acknowledging God for His great benefits and favor towards us.

In this Hebrew word, "yadah," it expresses the idea of "shooting arrows into the air." The actual physical expression of this for the worshipper is the extending of the hands. We "shoot our arrows" of not only praise but also "thanksgiving" unto the Lord. The "arrows" of gratitude and appreciation are to be aimed right to the heart of our Abba, Father. Those "arrows" of love and appreciation "pierce" His heart and gives Him a joy and a delight that floods His heart and "blesses" Him. That is why "thanksgiving" is such a powerful force. Psalm 100:4 tells us that with thanksgiving, we are able to enter into the "gates" of His presence. This is because it delights and gives our God so much pleasure.

There are many, many ways in which the Word reveals to us concerning how we bring pleasure to the heart of our God. The scriptures teach us, as His true worshipers, many ways of worshiping our God. We bring pleasure to Him when we come to Him in prayer because in this we are acknowledging Him for who He is, our source and our life, and what He can and will do for those whom He loves. We bring Him pleasure

by telling others about Him and bringing them to the place of believing and accepting that precious gift of salvation through Jesus. We delight His heart through the other aspects of worship such as singing, dancing, giving testimony and boasting upon Him and what He has done, etc. Basically, again it becomes a lifestyle whose attitude of heart desires to simply bring God pleasure.

As a child of God, through the blood of Jesus and the regenerative power of the Holy Spirit that make us "born again," one of the greatest things that brings God pleasure is that we can simply have fellowship and sweet communion with Him forever and ever. Yes, we can come boldly into His throne room of grace (Hebrews 4:12), and yes, we can dwell in the secret place of the Most High, under the shadow of His wings (Psalm 91:1), but there is something even more important to His heart. What I believe gives our God His greatest delight and pleasure is that He can now rest and dwell within us, His people, His most prized creation. In Isaiah 66:1, we here the cry of God's heart. It was His cry from the moment Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden and brought separation and enmity between God and man. It was the very thing that we were created for and that is closest to God's heart. Isaiah 66:1 tells us that God's heart was to always have a place where He would rest.

In the scripture, God asks, "*...where is the place of my rest?*" What!!! I thought we are to find our resting place in Him. Yes, that is true. However, God always intended it to be a two way street. He was always desiring and seeking after a dwelling place where He could find and enjoy a time of rest, as well. That is why we were created in His image and likeness - so that He could have a place to dwell in and rest in. In Genesis, we read that after His "work" of creation, God "rested." Where did He rest? Where did He find His place of true "Sabbath?" Could it have been with His most precious of all creation? Could it be with the only ones that were created in His image and likeness? When Adam and Eve sinned, it grieved God's heart because the "resting place" that He so desired was now corrupted and polluted with sin.

The first thing God did was to confront them and simply have them "own up" to what they did so that He would be able to have His resting place restored. After Adam and Eve failed in "owning up," our loving Heavenly Father put into motion a plan of restoration for a dwelling place that He longed for where He could truly rest. We see this in Genesis 3:15 - the first Messianic prophecy concerning Jesus. Now, as we said, through the blood atonement of Jesus, there is now a "resting place" for our God to rest and "Sabbath" within. It is not a place that is made with human hands but rather it is a place that is made, or we can say created, by the hand of God, Himself.

This is God's greatest pleasure. To dwell within the "house" that He created. As we mentioned when we began our discussion, "*... all things were created by Him, and for His pleasure, they are and were created.*" That is why you and I were created. We have a purpose. We have a reason for our existence. We live to simply bless the heart of our King and our God. "And for thy pleasure" ... I was created.



And for Thy Pleasure...
... I was Created