

What God Wants To Do With You #1

He Wants To Tell You Who He Is So That You Will Know Him

By Bill Denton

INTRODUCTION

A. Perhaps one of the most common philosophical questions that almost everyone ponders at one time or another is this: Why does man exist?

1. Perhaps it is worded a bit differently from person to person – maybe it comes out "Why do I exist?"
2. Still, the basic question is the same
3. It is interesting how some people attempt to provide answers to that question
 - a. "Why does man exist? Break it down to the simplest, most primitive elements. Man exists to: hunt, eat, procreate, sleep, repeat...." -- unknown

b. Why Does Man Exist?

Why does man exist if not to cheat, lie, and kill his fellow creature?

For every truth there are a thousand lies floating around it.

How can pure evil be stopped when it is bred and rooted so deeply?

How can beings that claim to be so pure be so cruel to the suffering of others?

Is there no way to save ourselves, who are so selfish with the will to live and survive no matter the cost to others and ourselves?

Ja Ne Kumo

- 1) what you should immediately notice is that although the title reads, "Why Does Man Exist?" the verse offers not one reason
- 2) all it does is identify a few of the obvious problems of existence
- 3) unfortunately, this is often the limitation of those who can see problems, but no purpose, no answer

B. I suspect every one of us, regardless of his or her religious or philosophical thinking, hopes that we do not share a purposeless existence

1. Even the most negative things you can read about man's existence contain a cry for understanding some better, a reason to exist

2. We do not want to believe that we experience life for nothing

C. If we accept the teaching of the Bible that God created the universe, and that in particular He created human beings, then the answer to the question must necessarily be found in God's purposes for making us

1. The question, "Why does man exist?" is perhaps better addressed by a different question: "What does God want to do with us?"

2. What were God's reasons or purposes for creating us?

3. We will attempt to find some answers to this question over the next few weeks

I. GOD'S FIRST DESIRE: THAT WE KNOW HIM

A. There is no doubt that God's will is that we know, understand, and obey numerous specifics

1. Deuteronomy 8:2-3

2 " You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 "He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD. NASU

2. Matthew 4:3-4

3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" NASU

3. In the long run, we're responsible to the entire revelation of God's will

B. What we need to understand is that there is one thing that must come first

1. We need to know God

2. Jeremiah 9:23-24

23 Thus says the LORD, " Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; 24 but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD. NASU

3. John 17:1-3

1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, 2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. 3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. NASU

4. These are two important verses

a. they do not negate anything that God wills for us to know or to obey

b. they do, however, get us to the root matter – that we know God

c. in knowing God, we discover all the reason we ever need to submit ourselves to God and live as he wants us to live

d. in not knowing God, we are ignorant of both the person of God, and the specifics of his will for us

II. A LOOK AT THE PROBLEMS OF NOT KNOWING GOD

A. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

1 Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. 2 For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. 3 For **this is the will of God**, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who **do not know God**; 6 and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. 7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. 8 So, **he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.** NASU

1. Paul is trying to communicate a specific part of God's will for us – sanctification
 - a. he says plainly, that this is the will of God
 - b. and in the context, his specific point has to do with sexual purity versus sexual immorality

2. But, look at what he says about the Gentiles
 - a. these are the people practice lustful passion – in other words, they allow their sexual passions to have full release, doing whatever they want to do

 - b. but the root problem is that they do not know God (vs 5)

 - c. if they knew God, they would understand not only the prohibition against sexual immorality, but they would understand the one who tells us not to practice such things

3. Note also that Paul said that if a person rejects sanctification (sexual purity) then he is not just rejecting a man's opinion, or a man's teaching, but he is actually rejecting God who gives His Holy Spirit to us
 - a. I will tell you that I have heard people say all sorts of things about God when they look at some of the specifics of his will
 - 1) some comments make it sound like God is just plain weird
 - 2) other comments sound angry, or defiant
 - 3) it's not uncommon to hear things that make it sound like God is completely out of touch with human nature
 - 4) listen to people talk when they don't want to do what God says, and you'll likely hear opinions about God that simply are not true
 - 5) what you'll hear are the voices of people who know very little, if anything about God, much less do they know God himself

 - b. the first step to every doing the will of God is knowing the God who tells us his will

B. 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10

3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater; 4 therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. 5 This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. 6 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution **to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.** 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 **when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed**--for our testimony to you was believed. NASU

1. The passage was written to comfort believers who were suffering persecutions
 - a. their faith had grown
 - b. their love for one another had grown
 - c. they persevered in spite of persecutions and afflictions
2. They needed a word of comfort, and Paul gave it to them in a startling way
 - a. he reminded them of God's justice
 - b. in the end, it will turn out right – the bad guys will receive God's judgment
 - c. who will be on the receiving end of God's retribution
 - 1) those who do not know God
 - 2) those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - 3) these are the ones who receive the ultimate penalty
 - 4) they will receive the full penalty of eternal destruction, an eternal separation from the presence of the Lord and the glory of his power
3. look at the root cause of this destruction
 - a. they don't know God
 - b. and they don't obey the gospel

C. A couple of other verses to round out the point I'm trying to make

1. Titus 1:16
 - 16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed. NASU
 - a. a profession to know God is proved by more than just the words
 - b. it is proved by demonstrating in the conduct of life that one does know God – it is knowing God that is at the heart of real Christian conduct
2. 1 John 4:7-8
 - 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. NASU
 - a. the command is to love one another
 - b. however, the command alone is unworkable – it depends on knowing God
 - c. lack of love is evidence that one does not know God
 - d. love evidences that we do know God

III. THE GREATEST REVELATION OF GOD IS THROUGH JESUS

A. John 1:14-18

14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" 16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. NASU

1. John 1:18

18 No one has ever seen God. But his only Son, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart; he has told us about him. NLT

2. John 1:18

18 No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known. RSV

B. Jesus explained that this was the greatest purpose of his life

1. John 14:7-9

7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." 8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" NASU

2. Those early disciples were privileged in ways that no other human beings have been blessed – they walked and talked with the one who showed them first-hand who God is and what he is like

- a. if you ever wondered how God would handle problems like sickness or suffering, then you need to look at Jesus healing such people
- b. if you ever wondered what God would do with sinful people, then take a look at Jesus and how he treated people like the woman at the well
- c. if you ever wanted to know how God feels about religious bigots, take a look at Jesus and the Pharisees
- d. if you ever wanted to know what God would do about the human condition, then take a look at Jesus dying on the cross

3. 1 John 5:20

20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. NASU

- a. why did Jesus come – to help us know the Father
- b. and in knowing the Father, we find eternal life

CONCLUSION

A. Do you know God? It is the first step to understanding his will for your life and allowing him to save you and shape your life according to his will

B. Invitation