

Two great truths must shape our understanding of life and the world: everything exists **for the glory of God** and **for the good of His people**.

All Things for the Glory of God

Why does anything exist? Because **God is**, and He **wills it**. The purpose of everything is to honour and glorify Him. This can be difficult to accept—it sounds demanding, perhaps even unreasonable—but Scripture affirms it throughout. **Psalm 19**, **Isaiah 42:8-9**, and **Isaiah 46:8-11** all declare that all things are for God's glory. The **Second London Confession of Faith 2.2** affirms God's sovereign right to do all things for His glory and to be worshipped accordingly. In **Exodus 3**, we see the greatness and worthiness of God revealed in His name and nature. The God who is self-existent, holy, immutable, and good is indeed worthy of worship and praise. As **Revelation 4:11** shows, all creatures are for God's honour and glory.

(1) God's Glory Through His People, v16-17

Why were the Israelites enslaved in Egypt? There were many reasons: the sin of Jacob's children, Egyptian wickedness, human injustice. But at the heart is this: **the glory of God**. In v16-17, God's promise to deliver His people shows how their suffering and deliverance serve His glory. As Isaiah 46 affirms, the rise and fall of empires all fulfil God's purposes. God displays His character—power, justice, mercy—through His redemption of Israel. Even their affliction serves His glory.

The presence of evil and suffering today raises similar questions. While sin and rebellion play a role, the ultimate answer remains: for **God's glory**. We may not fully understand how, but in the cross of Christ we see God's glory most clearly revealed—His justice, love, and mercy in perfect harmony. **Colossians 2:15** shows that in Satan's greatest attack upon the goodness of God, He triumphed, displaying His glory in Christ's victory over death and hell.

(2) God's Glory Through His Enemies, v18-20

God is glorified not only in His people but even through His enemies. Pharaoh thought his power made him glorious, but God proved otherwise, v18-20. Each plague demonstrated God's power and Pharaoh's weakness. In the same way, **Satan's attempt to destroy Christ** only magnified God's glory. At the cross, Satan was publicly defeated, and God's strength was made manifest.

(3) God's Glory Through All Things, v21-22

God promised Abraham that his descendants would leave Egypt with great possessions (Genesis 15:13–14), and against all the odds, they did! Israel, led by women and children, plundered Egypt, v21-22. Their newfound wealth later served in constructing the Tabernacle, for God's presence and worship. Even pagan riches were used to glorify God.

Likewise, Christ's enemies sought to shame Him, yet His cross became the greatest symbol of triumph. What was intended to shame Him (by the Jews) and erase His name from history (by the Romans), has instead become a global emblem of salvation and glory (the cross). As **Romans 1:16–17** says, God's power for salvation is revealed to all who believe in the crucified Saviour. God is glorified through Jews, Gentiles, friends, and foes alike—**all things** exist for His glory.

All Things for the Good of God's People

Alongside God's glory is His unwavering purpose to **do good to His people**. The glory and God and the good of his people are like the threads in a two-fold twine – inseparable and interwoven. This is the message of **Romans 8:28–39**—God's glory and our good are not to be separated – they are intimately connected.

(1) Faithful Goodness, v16

God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and came to deliver His people, v16. Likewise, in Christ, God has kept His promise to save us. As **Romans 8:31-35** makes clear, if God did not spare His own Son, how will He not also graciously give us all things? His faithfulness is proven.

(2) Fruitful Goodness, v17

God promises to take his people to a land flowing with milk and honey, v17 – a reversal of slavery's barrenness. This echoes the hope of **Eden restored** and points toward the future in the new heavens and earth (**Revelation 7:16–17**). Even now, we enjoy a measure of this fruitfulness, living lives of blessing and joy in Christ (**1 Corinthians 15:58**).

(3) Forgiving Goodness, v18

The first goal of Israel's deliverance was **worship**—which required **forgiveness through sacrifice**. True communion with God begins with the forgiveness of sins. **Hebrews 9:11-15** confirms that Jesus' sacrifice fulfils this once and for all. God desires a forgiven people who can truly worship Him.

(4) Fighting Goodness, v19-20

God overcomes Pharaoh, not through equal combat, but with overwhelming power. The fight between the living God and the gods of Egypt was not an even contest – it was a rout! As plague followed plague it became an embarrassment of weakness for Pharaoh. Similarly, Christ triumphed over sin, Satan, and death—completely and decisively (**Romans 8:35ff**). Our God fights for us, and we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

(5) Full-Pay Goodness, v20-21

After centuries of unpaid labour, the Israelites received full recompense. God made sure they were paid in full. In the same way, we are given the full reward of Christ's work. **Isaiah 61:10** speaks of being clothed in garments of salvation and righteousness. Christ alone provides the riches we need, and His reward is to clothe his people in royal robes of glory.

God's Glory AND Our Good?

Whatever your status—believer, sceptic, or opponent of God—your life is ultimately for **His glory**. The question is: **Will you unite His glory with your good?**

That only happens **through trust in Christ**. Then, and only then, will you know God's faithful, fruitful, forgiving, fighting, and full-pay goodness in your life. Everything exists for the glory of God—and for the eternal good of those who belong to Him.