

The Westminster shorter catechism says that  
the chief end of man is

to Glorify God and  
to Enjoy Him forever

## How do we come to delight in God?

1. God sends His grace (Eph 2:8,9), to call convict, illuminate, draw (John 6:44), and enable us to be in relationship with Him.

## How do we come to delight in God?

2. We begin to pursue God until He finds us and we embrace Him as God and our Savior (John 1:12). Our pursuit is usually done through the Spiritual Disciplines. (Hebrews 11:6; James 4:7) (Confession, Bible Study, Worship, Fellowship, Prayer, Holy Spirit Guidance, Baptism, Communion, Witnessing, Love, Giving, Fasting, etc.)

## How do we come to delight in God?

3. We begin to lower our immaturity toward God, listening to Him engage us about our omissions, sins and iniquities.

(1 John 1:9; James 4:7-10)

## How do we come to delight in God?

4. At some point we begin to interact with God about more than ourselves allowing Him to be all He really is. (Heb 12:18-24; Ex 34:7-9) We begin to learn about Him and what He is like and what He wants. Instead of just treating Him like a vending machine for our needs.

## How do we come to delight in God?

5. We increase His control over all areas of **life** (not just spirituality but self development, marriage, family, work, finances, friends, church, community and enemies) **learning His way of living.**  
(Matt 11:28-30; James 4:5; Matt 22:37-39)

## How do we come to delight in God?

6. We begin to grow through the dysfunctions of our past (wounds, programming, guilt) and we let God re-parent us. (Galatians 6:7; Matthew 18:21-35; Rom 5:1-5; James 1:2-5; 1 Thess 4:9-12). He brings new perspective, forgiveness, new habits, new beginnings and new relationships.

God can not be understood in the normal  
way that we would know people

He does not have height, weight, eyes,  
beginning, parents, job history, skills...

He tells us that the way to understand  
Him is through 5 Aspects of His being

1. His Essence
2. His Atttributes
3. His Nature
4. His Names
5. His Works



## Taking Delight in God

Adore, Praise, Give Thanks, Worship God

Cry out to Him focusing on Him in delight.

Psalms 37:4

We learned that God is  
an Infinite, Self-Existent, Spirit

What else does  
He tell us about Himself?

**God is Omniscient**  
**All knowing and All Wise?**



- God is called all wise in that all of the possibilities which present themselves to His infinite mind, He always chooses that course of action which results in the best overall good and holiness. Deut 29:18,20; Acts 17:26,27

- It is God's wisdom that allows Him to consider all the factors that could, do or will come into play in a decision and then to make the determination what is the best possible way to allow a situation to play itself out. Since He sees the end from the beginning and applies His infinite wisdom to the whole of our time sequence, He is not surprised.

- It is also possible to see that because of certain constraints within our universe that God would allow evil, disaster, and pain so that an ultimately good outcome will arise without destroying that constraint.
- Constraints: (which God imposes on Himself: like limited freedom of the will for mankind; true justice for humans; cause and effect; linear time sequencing; etc.)

Why is the world like it is now?

2 choices

## Why is the world like it is now?

- Because of the 1) rebellion, selfishness, sin and 2) limited expression of God's image in mankind down through ages. Rom 2,3
- God has allowed a world to exist in which some level of choice exists in either the positive or negative direction. There is in this world a range of possible futures, a variability of outcomes for each person based upon how the individuals, families, communities and cultures choose. Gen 3; Rom 4,5; John 3;

## **How do we see God's wisdom?**

- In His works of Creation
- Pro 8:22-30
  
- In His works of Providence:
- Gen 50:20; Psa 104:24
  
- In His works of Redemption:
- Eph 1:7,8; 3:10

**How do we see God's  
wisdom in Creation?**

## In the detail of creation: Prov 8:2-30

- When examining nature one sees incredible evidence for God's wisdom.
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- The tilt of the earth
- The speed of the rotation
- The ozone layer and magnetic field
- The genetic code
- The systems of the human body
- The nature of water
- The food chain.



## In the existence of real choice Gen 3

- God seeks the worship of free beings not robots or those coerced to love Him (John 4:24). Without real choice there can be no real love, no beauty, no heroics, no righteousness, no service or sacrifice. God could not have made a world in which real worship and real love exist without investing that world with the capacity of choice.
- It is true that with real choice there comes suffering, evil, injustice, bigotry and hatred. But it is not possible to have a world where real love exists and where real choice exists and where choices and actions have no real consequences.

### In the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil Gen 2:15-17

- If God invested His creatures with real choice and then never placed anything in their path that they should not do, then He would have doomed them to rebellion against Him. Only when I can get away from some rule outside of God and outside of myself can I exercise my choice and not rebel from God.

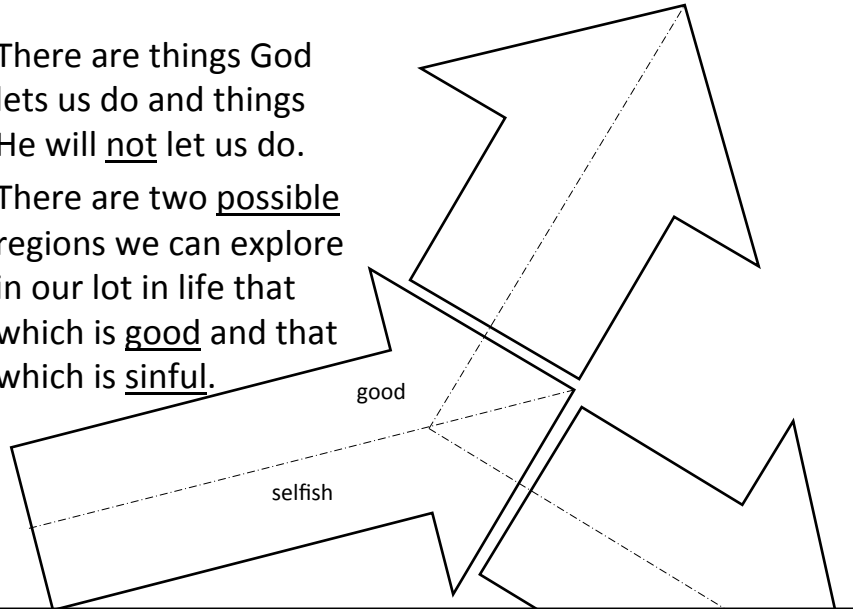
### There are many other evidences of God's wisdom in Creation

- The universal self-consciousness of man
- The clear perception of other beings and objects
- The imagination of mankind
- The moral motions of man (universality of right and wrong)
- The categories of the mind and its symmetry to what is... Epistemology
- The Aesthetic impulses to beauty and creativity
- The anthropic principle of Astrophysics

## **What is God's providence?**

God guides, maintains and directs the flow of history for His ultimate purposes. Psa 103:19

- There are things God lets us do and things He will not let us do.
- There are two possible regions we can explore in our lot in life that which is good and that which is sinful.



**How do we see God's wisdom in Providence?**



- He causes certain natural blessings to extend to all people in spite of their obedience or faithfulness.  
Matt 5:46 Acts 14:17
- He instills the animals with instincts and directs them.  
Job 12:10; Psa 147:9; Matt 6:26
- He watches the nations for their sin and righteousness  
Job 12:23; Psa 22:28; Psa 66:7; Dan 2:38,39
- He controls a man's birth, physical structure, his lot in life. Es 4:4; Psa 139:16; Jer 1:5
- It is often seemingly accidental or incidental or insignificant things upon which history turns Prov 1:22
- God allows a man to sin 2 Sam 16:10; Isa 57:1,2
- God prevents some sins: Gen 20:6; Gen 31:24; Psa 19:13; Hosea 2:6

**Objection:** Doesn't this suggest that man does not have a free choice?

- No...
- God turns the evil actions of men into blessing and benefits Gen 50:20
- God does rule the world with a view to the happiness of His creatures Gen 1:22 Psa 84:11; Rom 8:28
- He directly acts into His creation to change events without the whole of history being miracle. Acts 9:3-7; Acts 12:7
- He uses natural means to accomplish His purpose Acts 16:28; Ezekiel 14:14
- He restricts some of His actions to responses to the prayers of His people James 4:2; Num 23:11; Acts 9:10-16;
- He does some things without the prayers of His people 2 Kings 19:34,335

**Objection:** Is prayer necessary?

2 Chronicles 7:14

- God has filled the world and our lives with incomplete projects and possibilities. Some of these projects require our action, some our words, some our attitudes and some our prayers.
- God often waits until we are completely dependent upon Him before He acts  
Jonah 2:7; Jer 29:12-14

**How do we see the God's  
wisdom in Redemption?**

## God's Wisdom in Redemption

- God solved the problem of satisfying His perfect Holy Justice and showing His love and mercy toward His sinful creatures. He took on human flesh Himself so that He could live the perfect life, voluntarily give up His perfect life and accept the punishment of separation from the ultimate Unity the Trinity. Matt 28:42; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42; Acts 4:12; Rom 3:26; Phil 2:5-11;

## God's Wisdom in Redemption

- God could have bestowed redemption on all the left-handed or women or people from a certain country or a certain time period in history. But God gives the wonder of redemption on those who express faith in Him Eph 2:8,9
- God could have proclaimed the wonderful message of the gospel through angels, animals, clouds, etc. But He has chosen to use men and women 1 Cor 1:18, 20-25; Acts 10:1-6; Rev 14:6

## Taking Delight in God

Read each section about who God is, let your mind contemplate the wonder of God.

Worship Him for what the Scriptures say about Him.

Cry out to Him to display that aspect of His being in your life so you can take more delight in Him.

Psalms 37:4

