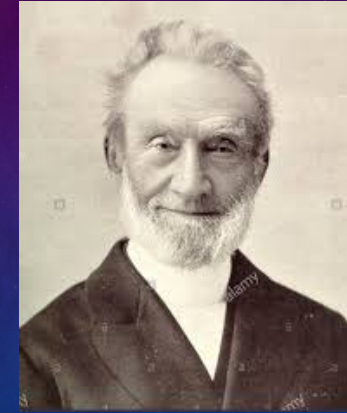


## REQUESTING PRAYER

THE GOAL: THE GLORY OF GOD (PART 1)

GEORGE  
MULLER



A T PIERSON

*"Between the first decision to build, in 1845, and the opening of the third house, in 1862, nearly seventeen years had elapsed, and before No. 5 was opened, in 1870, twenty-five years. The work was one in its plan and purpose. At each new stage it supplies only a wider application and illustration of the same laws of life and principles of conduct, as, from the outset of the work in Bristol, had with growing power controlled George Müller... His one supreme aim was the glory of God; his one sole resort, believing prayer..."*

MUELLER

*"When I began the Orphan work more than fifteen years ago, it was for the definite and especial purpose, that, by means of it, the unconverted might see, through the answers of prayer that I received in connection with it, that there is verily reality in the things of God; and that the children of God might have their faith strengthened by means of it... **This point, even the glory of God in the manifestation of His readiness to hear prayer, has weighed especially and supremely with me in purposing to enlarge the Orphan work.**"*

## WESTMINSTER CATECHISM

“What is the chief end or purpose of man?”

“To live to the glory of God and enjoy him forever.”

## THREE QUESTIONS

First, Why? Why is living to God’s glory the supreme goal of the Christian life?

Second, How? Given that this is our purpose, how do we live to God’s glory?

Third, how do we then shape our prayers to that end? In other words, how do we pray to live to God’s glory?

## 1. THE HUMAN PERSPECTIVE

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**1. None of us can escape living to worship or glorify something. We are all worshippers.**

## CELEBRITY WORSHIP SYNDROME

*"Anxiety, depression, high stress levels, poor body image, isolation, and obsessive-compulsive behaviors: All of these have been linked to celebrity worship syndrome because the patient's energy is focused entirely on someone who may not even know who they are."*

## STUART FISHCOFF

*"the very need to find an idol and follow him is programmed into our DNA. What's in our DNA, as a social animal, is the interest in looking at alpha males and females; the ones who are important in the pack."*

## STUART FISHCOFF

*"We are sociologically pre-programmed to "follow the leader," he says,... we are biochemical sitting ducks for the Hollywood star system; even the stars themselves get caught up in the mystique. "I know celebrities that are star struck by other celebrities... So this is clearly something that really is in our DNA..."*

## STUART FISHCOFF

*"A lot of these people who fall deeply into celebrity worship are just abnormal pathology waiting to happen. The fact that it comes out in the form of idolization of a particular celebrity is less important than recognizing the pathology was there all along. And if it was not focused on a celebrity it would be focused on something else, but it would still be there."*

## 1. THE HUMAN PERSPECTIVE

1. None of us can escape living to worship or glorify something. We are all worshippers.
2. Ultimately, living to the glory of God is the only thing that truly "fits" and, therefore, ultimately satisfies us.

## 1. THE HUMAN PERSPECTIVE

*"It fits to glorify God—it not only fits reality, because God is infinitely and supremely praiseworthy, but it fits us as nothing else does. All the beauty we have looked for in art or faces or places—and all the love we have looked for in the arms of other people—is only fully present in God himself. And so in every action by which we treat him as glorious as he is, whether through prayer, singing, trusting, obeying, or hoping, we are at once giving God his due and fulfilling our own design."*

## 2. THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

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*"The whole process of human history, according to the Bible, begins and ends with the glory of God. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end (Rev. 21:6). He is the one who "... was and who is and who is to come" (Rev. 4:8).*

## 2. THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

From a biblical perspective, this cosmic story line could be sketched across three stages.

1. Gods glory revealed

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1. Gods glory Revealed
2. God's glory challenged

## ROMANS 1:18-23

*18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men..., 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things."*

## THOMAS NAGEL

*"It isn't just that I don't believe in God and, naturally, hope that I'm right in my belief. It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God: I don't want the universe to be like that...."*

## 2. THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

From a biblical perspective, this cosmic story line could be sketched across three stages.

1. Gods glory Revealed
2. God's glory challenged
3. God's glory restored

## EPHESIANS 3:8-10

*"To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places."*

## REVELATION 21

*"I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb."*