

SANCTITY OF LIFE SEMINAR  
June 8, 1978

The Purpose of Creation

The subject I was asked to speak on this morning was the Purpose of Creation--the Glory of God. So I'd like to call your attention, as we start, to Revelation 4 where we find all the heavenly hosts bowing before the Lord, and in vs. 11 saying, "Worthy art thou ~~to~~ O Lord to receive glory and honor and power, for thou hast created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created." That word pleasure could easily give us a misunderstanding. We make some food for our pleasure; we play a game for our pleasure. But ~~it~~ this is not the common Greek word for "pleasure." It is the word thelma that rather expresses His will like it is His good pleasure to do this, that is to say, It is what He chooses to do, rather than it is a thing from which He derives something similar to what we derive when we speak in a human way of pleasure. It is a part of God's marvelous purpose, God's glorious purpose.

Before we speak of the glory of God, I'd like to look briefly at the glory of man. When we speak of glory we are apt to think of armies marching and banners flying, and great capitals and tremendous power and prestige. When we think of such things as Christians it is good for us to glance at Isa. 40 and see what God thinks of our human glory. We find in Isa. 40:6 that He says: The voice said, Cry. And He said, What shall I cry? (It is not cry in the sense that we put, but it is cry in the sense of proclaim.) The voice said, Proclaim. And he said, What shall I proclaim? All flesh is grass and its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, the breath of the Lord blows on it. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower ~~fades~~ but the Word of our God shall stand forever," and this is