Introduction

"Because you and I are in Christ Jesus, His glory and our good are linked together. Because we are united with Christ, whatever is for His glory is also for our good. And whatever is for our good is for His glory." - Jerry Bridges

Mankind has one chief end – "to Glorify God, and enjoy him forever" (Westminster Shorter Catechism). That is an incredibly worthy goal, but what does it mean to glorify God? To put it in simple terms, to glorify God is to show Him as glorious, wonderful, valuable, and worthy of praise. All praise and glory are rooted in love and when we love something enough, it naturally overflows into everything we do. What could bring God more glory than for us to find our greatest joy and pleasure in Him? As John Piper said, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

1 Corinthians 10:31 – *"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."*

Unfortunately, many Christians have never learned how to glorify God in the way we handle our finances. Here are two common mistakes.

1. **We seek to find enjoyment in our money apart from God.** When we separate our enjoyment from God, we are no different than those who have no faith at all. We may profess our love for the Lord, but our actions tell another story to those watching. Seeking the pleasure of creation without regard for the Creator is an attempt to glorify ourselves.

2. **We do the right things, but only out of a sense of obligation.** Some of us will work hard doing all the things we believe Christians are supposed to do. We give to our church, support foreign missionaries, and pinch every penny. To observers, we look to have the Christian life all worked out. However, even the right actions done without joy can reveal a lingering love of self that is stealing God's glory.

The goal is clear, to glorify God with hearts that love and desire Him above anything else. In His kindness, the road to our pleasure and His glory is the same. As the psalmist declares, "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (Psalm 16:11).

We have a choice to make. Do we chase the fleeting pleasures of this world like the unbeliever or do we draw near to God and trust that joy is found in Him? Paul was able to say, "to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21) because His joy was rooted in Christ. In life, he was delighting in Christ, but dying would allow him to enjoy Him more fully.

The world only knows how to chase pleasure and self-glorification. The goal of this course is to remind you of the joy found in the God of your salvation and to help you understand how to glorify Him through your everyday financial decisions.