

Today's Message: **CREATED!**  
*Psalm 119: 73-96*  
Pastor Gary Stump

## **Don't we all long to know why God created us?**

**Why did God created you and choose you?** Psalm 119:73–96 gives us some answers...

### **↳ Yod**

*vv. 73-80 You made me; you created me. Now give me the sense to follow your commands. <sup>74</sup> May all who fear you find in me a cause for joy, for I have put my hope in your word. <sup>75</sup> I know, O LORD, that your regulations are fair; you disciplined me because I needed it. <sup>76</sup> Now let your unfailing love comfort me, just as you promised me, your servant. <sup>77</sup> Surround me with your tender mercies so I may live, for your instructions are my delight. <sup>78</sup> Bring disgrace upon the arrogant people who lied about me; meanwhile, I will concentrate on your commandments. <sup>79</sup> Let me be united with all who fear you, with those who know your laws. <sup>80</sup> May I be blameless in keeping your decrees; then I will never be ashamed.*

### **↳ Kaph**

*vv. 81-88 I am worn out waiting for your rescue, but I have put my hope in your word. <sup>82</sup> My eyes are straining to see your promises come true. When will you comfort me? <sup>83</sup> I am shriveled like a wineskin in the smoke, but I have not forgotten to obey your decrees. <sup>84</sup> How long must I wait? When will you punish those who persecute me? <sup>85</sup> These arrogant people who hate your instructions have dug deep pits to trap me. <sup>86</sup> All your commands are trustworthy. Protect me from those who hunt me down without cause. <sup>87</sup> They almost finished me off, but I refused to abandon your commandments. <sup>88</sup> In your unfailing love, spare my life; then I can continue to obey your laws.*

### **↳ Lamed**

*vv. 89-96 Your eternal word, O LORD, stands firm in heaven. <sup>90</sup> Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created. <sup>91</sup> Your regulations remain true to this day, for everything serves your plans. <sup>92</sup> If your instructions hadn't sustained me with joy, I would have died in my misery. <sup>93</sup> I will never forget your commandments, for by them you give me life. <sup>94</sup> I am yours; rescue me! For I have worked hard at obeying your commandments. <sup>95</sup> Though the wicked hide along the way to kill me, I will quietly keep my mind on your laws. <sup>96</sup> Even perfection has its limits, but your commands have no limit.*

*v. 73 You made me; you created me. Now give me the sense to follow your commands.*

### **God made me unique**

*Psalm 139:13–17 (NLT) You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. <sup>15</sup> You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. <sup>16</sup> You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. <sup>17</sup> How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!*

### **I KNOW God created me!**

*Romans 1:18–20 (NLT) But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. <sup>19</sup> They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. <sup>20</sup> For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.*

## **Making up foolish ideas of what God was like**

*Romans 1:21–23 (NLT) Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.<sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools.<sup>23</sup> And instead of worshipping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.*

*Psalms 14:1a (NLT) Only fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."*

## **Chosen of God**

*Ephesians 1:4 (NLT) Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.*

*1 Peter 2:9a (NLT) But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession.*

*John 15:16a (NLT) "You didn't choose me. I chose you."*

*Jeremiah 1:5 (NLT) "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."*

*1 Thessalonians 1:4 (NLT) We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people.*

## **Created for God's glory**

*Isaiah 43:7 (NLT) Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.' "*

**Turtle on a fencepost:** If you see a turtle on a fencepost, what do you know?

*Romans 3:11b (NLT) No one is seeking God.*

*John 15:16a (NLT) "You didn't choose me. I chose you."*

*John 6:44 (NLT) "For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up."*

## **3 Key Steps in Turtle Hunting:**

### **1. Pray at 10:02am for your "10 Most Wanted List"**

*Luke 10:2 (NLT) These were his instructions to them: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."*

### **2. Expect the Lord to bring "turtles" to your attention**

*Acts 8:29 (NLT) The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage."*

### **3. Be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks**

*1 Peter 3:15–16a (NLT) Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.<sup>16</sup> But do this in a gentle and respectful way.*

v. 78 Bring disgrace upon the arrogant people who lied about me; meanwhile, I will concentrate on your commandments.

*John 21:21–22 (NLT) Peter asked Jesus, “What about him, Lord?”<sup>22</sup> Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me.”*

vv. 81-82 I am worn out waiting for your rescue, but I have put my hope in your word.<sup>82</sup> My eyes are straining to see your promises come true. When will you comfort me?

*“When you don’t know what to do, then do what you know to do!” –Junior Hill*

v. 89 Your eternal word, O LORD, stands firm in heaven.

*Matthew 24:35 (NLT) Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.*

*Isaiah 40:8 (NLT) The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever.”*

*Isaiah 55:11 (NLT) It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.*

v. 90 Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created.

Note: Back to creation!

## **SO WHAT? Where are you finding your purpose?**

### **Have you abandoned the Living Water only to dig broken cisterns?**

*Jeremiah 2:13 (NLT) “For my people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me— the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!”*

### **Are you showing others the goodness of God?**

*1 Peter 2:9 (NLT) But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.*

### **Is your life producing eternal fruit?**

*John 15:16 (NLT) “You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.”*

### **God created us for His glory!**

*Isaiah 43:7 (NLT) Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.’”*

**Let’s live fully for His glory!**

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## [ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2022](#)

**1. HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY—9<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADES**--Thursday nights 6-8pm at Cynthia Brown's home (14079 Clifton Ct, Fishers IN 46040). See Jerry Ackerman for more info or text him at 317-919-7171.

**2. LADIES BIBLE STUDY—WEDNESDAYS**—9:30am at Kathy Stump's house (12928 Whitehaven Lane, Fishers; 131<sup>st</sup> & Cumberland). Studying the book of Hebrews. Hebrews study guide \$10. See Laurie Abell (317-432-6851) or Kathy Stump (317-292-7632) for more details.

**3. LIVESTREAM ON FACEBOOK LIVE**—We will continue to livestream our service on Pastor Gary's Facebook Live and it will be available on our website ([www.onwardchurch.org](http://www.onwardchurch.org)) and our YouTube channel (see below for link)

**Gary's FACEBOOK LIVE link:** <https://www.facebook.com/gary.stump.3>

**Onward Church YouTube Channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSHetYKQbsv3tYGbNtwgnOg>

**4. YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT**—6-8pm at Jon & Shannon Harris' (16369 Drayton Way, Fortville).

**5. FEBRUARY 26-27 2022 ONWARD MARRIAGE RETREAT** at Brown County Inn, 51 State Rd. 46, Nashville, IN. FIRST SESSION SATURDAY AT 2PM. Call **812-988-2291** to reserve your room under **ONWARD MARRIAGE RETREAT** PROMO CODE **0270**.

### [2022 Onward Marriage Retreat Schedule](#)

Speaker: Matthew A. Vander Wiele, Ed. D.

Theme: Experiencing Sabbath Rest within your Marriage

#### [Saturday February 26th](#)

ROOM CHECK IN: 4:00 pm (you may be able to check in earlier)  
SESSION 1: 2:00pm – 3:30ish  
FREE TIME/DINNER 4:00pm – 7:30pm  
SESSION 2: 7:30pm – 9:00ish  
Free Time

#### [Sunday February 27th](#)

ROOM CHECKOUT: Before Session  
SESSION 3: 9:30am – 11:00ish  
AFTERNOON FREE TIME!

- Light refreshments and snacks will be served at all sessions!
- Booklets provided!
- Bring – Bible, Journal, Pen and SPOUSE!!
- Have Fun!

**6. CULTURE, RACE AND THE CHURCH** is an online, self-paced course by **Dr. Charles Ware** through Grace Relations and the College of Biblical Studies. Here is a link for more information or to register:

<https://gracerelations.cbshouston.edu/>

**7. 2022 ONWARD TO JERUSALEM BIBLE STUDY TOUR—OCTOBER 18-29, 2022.** Cost of the tour will be approximately \$3,800 per person (double occupancy). A deposit of \$500 will hold your spot. For more information, please write Pastor Gary at [gary@garystump.org](mailto:gary@garystump.org).

**8. GIVE BIBLES IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE**—The Gideons have provided a display in the back of the room for you to give God's word.

**9. "BIBLE ANSWER MAN"**—Each week we have a segment in the service where we answer your Bible questions. If you have a particular Bible question, write it on the back of your Prayer Card and we will try to answer your questions.