

Don't Miss This... Summer Series

Aug 11

# Embracing God's Ultimate Design

Is Jesus' offer of a full life legit?



# Embracing God's Ultimate Design

Summer Series – Don't Miss This...

- Things that God has laid on our hearts that didn't fit our preaching series
- Last week... Hearers Who Do
- Today... Embracing God's design
  - God has been teaching me over the years that to really trust him, I have to trust his ultimate design
  - It hasn't been easy... I have fought it all the way
  - » As I have slowly given myself to believe and trust the life that God has



# Embracing God's Ultimate Design

John 10:10

**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

***Is Jesus' offer of a full life a legitimate one?***



# Embracing God's Ultimate Design

*What's the problem?*

- **We don't believe that the life outlined for us in the Bible is one of fullness**
  - We look with skepticism on God's ultimate design for life
  - We continually to try satisfy our "hunger" apart from God



# Embracing God's Ultimate Design

C. S. Lewis

**“What Satan put into the heads of our remote ancestors was the idea that they could ‘be like gods’ – could set up on their own as if they had created themselves – be their own masters – invent some sort of happiness for themselves outside God, apart from God. And out of that hopeless attempt has come nearly all that we call human history – money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery – the long terrible**

A pair of hands is shown holding a small, realistic globe of the Earth. The hands are positioned at the bottom left of the frame, with fingers wrapped around the globe. The globe shows continents in green and yellow and oceans in blue. The background is dark and textured.

# Embracing God's Ultimate Design

*What's the problem?*

- **We don't believe that the life outlined for us in the Bible is one of fullness**
- **We continually submit to the desires within us that we think will make us happy and reject God's**
  - **As Christians we take pieces of God's design but often reject the portions that don't appeal to us**
  - **We hold back our "whole selves" from God**
    - » **At our core we believe that God is holding back on us**



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*C. S. Lewis...* “The terrible thing, the almost impossible thing, is to hand over your whole self – all your wishes and precautions – to Christ. But it is far easier than what we are all trying to do instead. For what we are trying to do is remain what we call ‘ourselves’, to keep personal happiness as our great aim in life, and yet at the same time be ‘good’. We are all trying to let our heart and mind go their own way – centred on money or pleasure or ambition – and hoping in spite of this to behave



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## Reality Check

- **Our way is not working**
  - **Brokenness**
  - **Depression**
  - **Atrocities**
  - **Anxiety**
  - **Emptiness...**



# Embracing God's Ultimate Design

*We don't get it!*

- **Unhappy teenagers who have everything...  
What?**
- **King Solomon... Ecclesiastes 2:1-11; 24-26**
  - A man with everything the heart of man could desire



# Embracing God's Ultimate Design

The full life... God's Ultimate Design

- **Rhythm**

- Sabbath

- Worship

- Generosity

- Our excuses... (anything that restricts our freedom)

- » “We’re not under the law, we’re under grace”

- » “That’s just legalism”

- » “Our Christian freedom allow s me to  
”



# Embracing God's Ultimate Design

C. S. Lewis

**“The happiness which God designs for His higher creatures is the happiness of being freely, voluntarily united to Him and to each other in an ecstasy of love and delight compared with which the most rapturous love between a man and a woman on this earth is mere milk and water. And for that they must be free.”**

**– Mere Christianity**



# Embracing God's Ultimate Design

*The full life... God's Ultimate Design*

- **Rhythm**
- **Character**
  - **God is committed to shaping us into the image of Christ**
  - **Honesty, integrity, compassion, fruit of the Spirit**



# Embracing God's Ultimate Design

*The full life... God's Ultimate Design*

- **Rhythm**
- **Character**
- **Relationships**
  - **Marriage, Parent/Child/Family**
  - **Brothers and sisters in Christ**
  - **Unbelievers**



# Embracing God's Ultimate Design

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who



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C. S. Lewis

**“Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.”**



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