

## Lesson 4: God's Pleasure in All His Creation

### Primary Objectives:

1. Reflect on What Makes a Thing Pleasurable
2. Make Preliminary Observations: What the Universe Tells Us About God
3. Examine Why God's Pleasure in Creation Is Not Idolatry
4. Develop a Principle for How to Enjoy God's Creation

### 1. Reflect on What Makes a Thing Pleasurable

#### 1.1. Identify something in this world (person, place, thing, activity) that you really enjoy.

Name of the thing enjoyed: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the question: **WHY** do you enjoy that particular thing?

#### 1.2. Interact with Paul's Bloom's assertion below on "how pleasure works."

Do you agree or disagree with his conclusion:

*"When we get pleasure from something, it's not merely based on what we see or what we hear or what we feel. Rather, it's based on what we believe that thing to be."*

*"For all of us, what makes something art is dependent on our beliefs about how it came into being, not merely its current nature, not merely what it looks like."*

What insight does this shed on why you enjoy the particular thing identified above?

Do you think God's pleasure in a created thing is also "*not merely based on what [he] sees...Rather, it's based on what [he] believes that thing to be... about how it came into being*"?

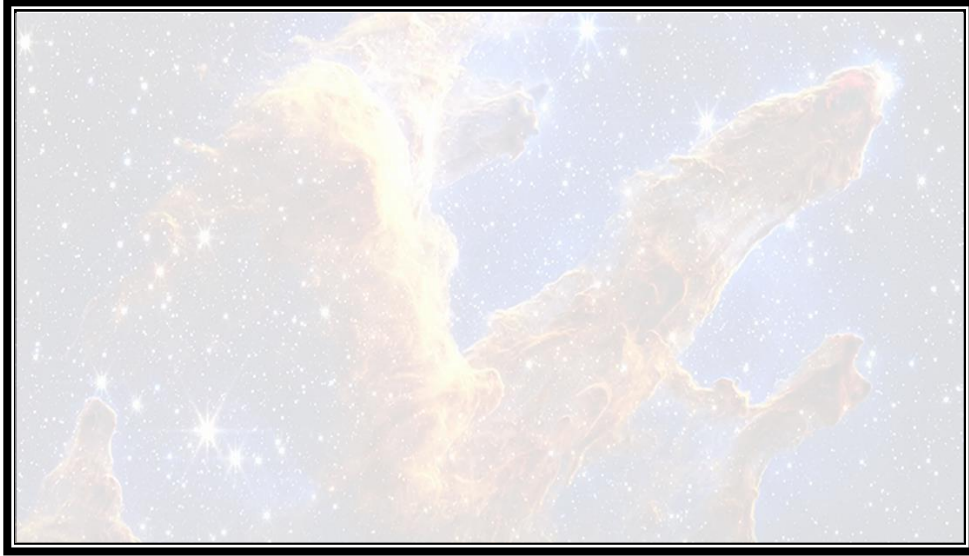
### 2. Make Preliminary Observations: What the Universe Tells Us About God

#### Psalm 19:1–2:

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.

**2.1. Note observations: What is the universe “out there” saying about God?**



**2.2. Note observations: What is the weather “right here” saying about God?**



**3. Examine Why God’s Pleasure in Creation Is Not Idolatry**

**3.1. Complete the following statements based on the verse provided:**

1. God rejoices in the works of creation because they express \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 104:31:** May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works.

**Psalm 19:1:** The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

2. God rejoices in the works of creation because they express \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 148:1–5:**

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!  
<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!  
<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!  
<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!  
<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created.

3. God rejoices in the works of creation because they reveal \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 8:12, 27-31:**

- <sup>12</sup> "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion.  
<sup>27</sup> When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
<sup>28</sup> when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,  
<sup>29</sup> when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
<sup>30</sup> then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,  
<sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.

4. God rejoices in the works of creation because they reveal \_\_\_\_\_

**Isaiah 40:26:** Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these?

He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.

**3.2. Explain why God is not an idolater like those described in Romans 1:23, based on the reasons that God takes great pleasure in his creation listed above.**

Paul writes that the wrath of God is revealed against those who:

*"exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things."* (Romans 1:23)

Why does God's great pleasure in his creation not make him an idolater?

*God is not an idolater when he takes pleasure in his works of creation because...*

#### 4. Develop a Principle for How to Enjoy God's Creation

##### 4.1. Revise the statement below to reflect what we should do if God is our model for how to enjoy his works of creation.

**Psalm 104:31:** May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works,

God takes pleasure in his works of creation because...  
they point beyond themselves to God as the most glorious thing in the universe.

\_\_\_\_\_ take pleasure in God's works of creation \_\_\_\_\_...  
they point beyond themselves to God as the most glorious thing in the universe.

##### 4.2. Reflect on the following quotes from Edwards and Augustine. How might you summarize these as a "principle to live by" as it relates to how we ought to enjoy God's creation?

**Psalm 104:31–34:**

<sup>31</sup> May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works,

<sup>32</sup> who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke!

<sup>33</sup> I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

<sup>34</sup> May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

Edwards (speaking of earthly pleasures): *"These are but shadows; but the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams; but God is the sun. These are but streams; but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean."* – Works, Vol 2

Augustine: *"He loves Thee too little who loves anything together with Thee, which he loves not for Thy sake."*

**Principle to live by:**

**Next Week: God's Pleasure in Doing Good to All Who Hope in Him**

