

In Him - Purpose

There is a question that most people will ask at some point in their life....."why am I here?"

They don't know (or maybe forget) their purpose. They know when they were born but not why they were born. They know when they wake up each morning but not why they wake up each morning.

Every man, woman, and child needs to know their purpose. If you know and walk in your purpose, you feel fulfilled in life. To be fulfilled is to feel satisfied.

People seek fulfillment, they want to feel good but they problem is when you don't clearly know your purpose, you look to the wrong things for fulfillment.....sin. Do you know that is the main reason we sin is to fulfill or satisfy the flesh (sinful nature)?

To fulfill also means to carry out, to obey or follow commands. When we fulfill our sinful nature we are carrying out the plans of the enemy and obeying his commands. This is the path of a person that doesn't know their purpose!

If I was to ask this morning "how many of you believe that God has a purpose for your life?", about every hand would be raised. If I was to follow that up with how many of you know your God given purpose for life there would be a lot fewer.

One of the biggest lies of the enemy is to tell people that God has no use for them. They can't do this, can't do that, aren't good enough, have messed up too much, you've blown it.....These are lies.....not true. God has a plan and a purpose for your life.....that is why you are here!

Today we continue the series "In Christ". In past weeks we looked at being a saint, being blessed, chosen, and redeemed, today we are looking at purpose.

Writer Thomas Carlyle said, *"A man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder - a waif, a nothing, a no man."*

So what is this purpose?

Ephesians 1:9-12 (NKJV)

9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined

according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Great stuff! Again this is a continuation of the previous verses and this comes on the heels of redemption. In Christ, your penalty for sin (death) has been paid in full. You are freed and redeemed!

Paul continues that thought saying God has made known to use the mystery of His will. This mystery has been revealed IN CHRIST. This mystery is ultimately God revealing the rest of the redemption plan! Jesus came and died not just for the Jews but also the Gentiles....all people. He died for the church, His body. That all who are redeemed would be united with Him regardless of their place of birth or line of birth.

This is part of your purpose in Christ....you were created for God's pleasure

Colossians 1:16 (NKJV)

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Everything created thing has a purpose. Yours is to know, love, and to praise God.

See, most of us believe we were created BY Him but you've gotta know you were created FOR Him! The mystery has been revealed that YOU were created because God loves and wants YOU!

This is according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself! This is all a part of His plan! For you to be redeemed and reconciled with Him. That's your eternal purpose.....to be with Jesus!

You know that you are one of a kind? Sure you may have some blend of your parent's features and personalities. But you are unique. An original masterpiece.

I think sometimes when we believe satan's lies that we are useless or hopeless, we may think we were some kind of experiment. God made us as a test subject to see how bad we could mess things up or maybe give Him a challenge to see if He could actually fix us.....

Listen, God doesn't play games with people's lives....satan does that. God creates and saves! He is the hero in every story! Before you were even created God knew your beginning and your end.

See we think God starts with creation, that's what we see at the beginning of His Word.

Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Can I let you in on a couple other mysteries today?

1. This line at the beginning of your bible is not the beginning! It's not God's beginning. The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, were all here before Genesis 1:1. They are God, God is eternal and has no beginning and no end.
2. God didn't start mankind with creation.....He started with a purpose!

He didn't start your life with creation, He started it with a purpose. He designed YOU specifically and perfectly for that purpose. The simple fact that you exist is the evidence that you have value and a purpose that no one else can fill.

THIS is why Jesus came and died a brutal death on a rugged cross.....because you were worth it. Because He desires for you to live and not die. When you realize your value and worth in God's eyes, you will start to think of your life and value it the way that God does!

Knowing God's purpose should birth passion. This is why when people get saved they get a little crazy (in a good way). They tell everyone what happened. God's purpose of redemption and salvation becomes their passion. The problem is that people often forget that purpose and lose that passion.

We must remember our purpose. Never knowing purpose is tragic. A loss of purpose is tragic.

Evangelist Myles Munroe said *"that the greater tragedy is not death, but life without purpose. The greater tragedy is not the unfortunate and untimely death, as terrible as that is, of a loved one in an accident. It is the millions upon millions who die every year having squandered their potential and their purpose by doing something else."*

Life is not simply lost by dying; life is lost minute by minute, day by day, in all the thousands of ways in which men and woman live their lives without purpose.

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Purpose before creation. God prepared the good works for you to do before He created you.

Sometimes we look at our lives and all we can find is hurt, pain, struggle, troubles. These things tend to overtake us. Through them we allow satan to whisper lies to us that we ultimately end up buying into.

We hear satan lie about our purpose, we hear him say "it is finished" and we believe it.

But I've gotta tell you something, I think I've heard that before..... We have a Lord and Savior in Jesus Christ who once said "IT IS FINISHED"

satan.....finished

Death.....finished

Debt.....finished

Hopelessness.....finished

Separation.....finished

God has a purpose for you. When satan tells you that you are finished you remind him that He is finished. Remind him that God's not done with you yet! God has a purpose for you!

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

You know, Christians use this verse a lot but they often leave off that last part. God does work together all things for good for those who love Him.....but those who love Him are those who are called according to His purpose!

It's the reason He works things out for your good....His purpose....the purpose that He has for your life. The reason He created you. There are things that God prepared for you to do!

Don't ever believe that God has given up on you. Even when your faithfulness wains, your purpose remains.

How many of you know people that start things but never seem to finish them? I'm that way with books, even good ones. I have 2 books at home that I have 2 chapters left in each of them. Now it's been long enough that I'd probably have to start over.

God is not like us. He doesn't start something and forget about it. He doesn't start something and then get to busy with something else. He doesn't start something and then get lazy. God follows through (we are supposed to be like Him)

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

God's work in you is a process. Sanctification is the process of the Holy Spirit making you holy and pure, free from sin, manifesting what Christ purchased on the cross in your life.

He's not done with you yet! You have purpose because He has a purpose for you!

I was talking with a couple of guys the other day and the topic of steak came up. I love steak...good steak. I like it juicy and seasoned well, cooked medium.....not medium rare, not medium well.....medium. If they ask if I need steak sauce, my response is usually "I hope not". If I do, it's not very good....

Well these guys proceeded to tell me that beef steak was ok but they both would rather have a BBQ seasoned pork steak from S&W.....my response was "well sanctification IS a process....."

God's not done with them yet!

OK.....so God revealed this mystery of salvation and redemption is available to all in Christ, therefore we all have purpose in Christ.

Ephesians 1:10 (NKJV)

10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

There will be a day where all is gathered in Christ. This life and earth will come to an end and according to His plan, Christ will rule on the earth over all things.

God has a plan to redeem and gather together this fragmented universe. What a glorious day it will be! But for now.....we must find and walk in our purpose!

Ephesians 1:11-12 (NKJV)

11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

If you are in Christ, you have an inheritance a spiritual inheritance, all the riches of God that are in Christ are yours. Why???? So you can fulfill your purpose!

So that you can live for Him, holy, set apart, uncommon, not like everyone else.....but as a functioning part of the body of Christ using your gifts and talents, time and finances, to do your part in God's work in this world.

That is His will for you. That is His purpose. That you be unlike others and be like Jesus!

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NKJV)

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that **through these you may be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Your purpose is to be born again. A new creation, indwelt by the Holy Spirit

Colossians 1:27 (NKJV)

27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

When we grasp our position in Christ, only then will we grasp our purpose.

If you are in Christ, you are a saint. You have to know that God had a purpose THEN He created you to fulfill that purpose. He took you and carefully, skillfully, intentionally crafted you with a certain personality, certain gifts and talents and has allowed experiences in this life to shape you and strengthen you for His purpose.

That is why we are ALL needed for the Kingdom.

First of all God just wants you. He created you, loves you, desires time with you, wants to bless you, His heart is for you.

Secondly because the church needs you. There are things that are a part of your purpose that only you can do. There are people that you can reach that others can't. There are roles that you play in people's lives that others don't.

Every day is important. God has a plan for you and He says that in Christ you are able and capable.

Whether big things or small things (both are important) do them as though you are doing them for the Lord.....that is your purpose.

Your purpose is more about how you do things than it is what you do. If you do them all for Jesus, if you are faithful to Him in all things. You are fulfilling your purpose because you are living to the praise of His glory!

Start thinking less about what you do and more about why you do it.

People serve Jesus with joy when they remember they are serving the God who saved them.

Are you using your gifts and talents and resources to just accomplish tasks? Or to praise and bring glory to the mighty name of Jesus?

Be faithful to Him! Fulfill your purpose!

Philippians 2:9-11 (NKJV)

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.