

MAKING YOUR LIFE COUNT

Or “Planned for God’s Purposes”

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Aug 30

Satan knows we’re “Shaped for Significance” (*Gen. 1:26; Jer. 29:11; Jn 10:10; Rev. 4:11*) and seeks to sidetrack us from finding and pursuing the path that will lead to lasting Peace and Purposes. (*Contrast Pr. 14:12 & Ps. 16:11*) *The very nature of sin is to sidetrack us from God’s purposes.* This is often fueled by: Callousness (Hardness) Mt 13:19; Conflict (Pressure) Mt 13:20-2; 1 Contamination/Clutter Mt 13:22; and Carelessness/ Complacency (Acts 24:25; 1 Pt 5:8)

God’s purposes revealed in the Great Commandment (Mt. 22:36-40) remind us:

- We’re planned for God’s Pleasure. (Loving Relationship with God / Worship) Rev 4:11
- We’re formed for Fellowship. (Loving Relationship with others) Eph 1

God’s Great Commission reveals that God’s Great Plan involves our:

1. Salvation: Mt 28:19; Luke 19:9,10

- This establishes a personal relationship with God. (Jn 1:12; 2 Cor. 6:18)
 - This enables the power & Presence of God’s Spirit. (Gal.4:6; 1 Jn 4:4)
- Salvation is actually about our **RESTORATION**. (Col. 1:13; Eph. 2)

2. Baptism: Mt. 29:19 (Baptizo: “to dip, make fully wet” used in each case)

- Is an act of obedience. 1 Pt 3:21; Mt 10:32
 - Identifies us with Jesus. (Ro. 6:3,4)
 - Identifies us with Christ’s Church. (Acts 2:41,42)
- Baptism is ultimately about our **IDENTIFICATION** (With Christ and His Church)

The third dimension of this “Great Commission” equips us to
“walk in newness of life”. Ro 6:4

3. Discipleship: Mt. 28:20 *“Teaching them to observe (tereo: to guard, value, watch, keep) all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”* (Entellōmai’: from en: from a fixed position and telos: to set out for a definite point or goal!)

A. Discipleship is the process whereby

1) We Grow to **understand** God’s Goals/Will. (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16;17)

2Ti. 3:16 *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine... That the man of God may be perfect, (ar’tios: renewed, complete, mature) thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

2) We grow to value God and His will and so choose to adjust our lives accordingly! (Mt 28:20; Acts 4:42; Jms 1:22-25; 1 Jn 5:3)

B. The Point (goal) of Discipleship is Personal **Transformation!**

Ro 12:1-2 *“present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, (agathos: beneficial) and acceptable, (euar’estos: fully agreeable, pleasing) and perfect, (telios: complete, mature, the goal) will of God.”* (thelema: purpose, pleasure)

Mt 10:24,25 *“The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.*

It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord.”

Disciple: μαθητής (mathētēs) literally means a learner or pupil.

1) This Was God's Original Plan. Gen. 1:26 *"Let us make man in our image,"*

a) Not "God" But "Godly" (Like God) See 1 Peter 1:15,16

(1) Heb. 1:3 tells us that Jesus is the *"the brightness of his glory, the express image of his person"*
Charaktēr': a replication, exact copy

(2) Jesus reveals the Character or God! (Jn 10:30; 14:9; John 1:14 *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*)

God's image (in/through) us has been marred by sin...

But can restored in us through Grace and Truth! (Eph. 2; Phil 2:13)

b) God Wants His Children To Grow Up To Become Like Him. 1 Peter 2:2

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:" (2 Pet 3:18)

(1) Babies are blessings; *unless they refuse to grow up!* Heb 5:12,13; 1 Cor 3:1-3

(2) He uses "all things" to accomplish this. Ro. 8:28,29

2) This is the essence of the word "Christian".

Christianos': a follower of (Like) Jesus Christ

3) This is the goal of Discipleship! Not knowledge, but Transformation!

Acts 11:26 *"a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."*

Conclusion: God's Great Plan involves your:

Salvation: Responding to "the gospel!" Restoration of a Personal Relationship with Him.

Baptism: Public identification and Association with Him and His church.

Discipleship: Orientation/Education/ to enable you to grow (Transformation)

"into the image of His Son" (Ro. 8:29)

What does a Mature Christian look (act) like? Like Jesus!

1) This is a lifelong Process called Discipleship! *Mathētēs'*: A learner, follower!

Just as it takes years for a child to develop the characteristics of their parents, It takes time, training, and tenacity to develop the qualities of Christ.

2) This is the 3rd part of the Great Commission:

Mt. 28:20 *"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."*

This is part of God's "Co-Mission" (Mt 11:28-30) *"take my yoke upon you and learn of me"*

3) This is what "abiding in Christ" is all about! Jn 15:1-4

This allows the "Fruit of the Spirit" To develop in our lives! Gal 5:22-24

4) The results (fruit) of discipleship (maturity) is ultimately Reproduction!

The Fruit has the Seeds for more fruit! Jn 15:16 *"I have chosen you, and ordained you, (tithēmi: to place and appoint) that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain!"*

Application: John 10:10; Mt. 13:

What's the "thief" using to distract you from God's Great plan for your life?

(Pride, Pressure, Preoccupation (with lesser things) Passivity?)

Jn 10:10...27 *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me!*

➤ Will you purpose to learn to "listen" for and to His voice?

➤ Will you choose/purpose to "Follow" Him. Pr. 3:5,6