

Pondering the Purposes of God! Pt 2

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Sept. 13th

Reflection: Last week we introduced the realities that:

- 1) God created us on purpose and for His Specific purposes. (Col. 1:13-18; Rev. 4:11; 1 Pt 2:9)
- 2) God's purpose is that We recognize His Glory & respond to His Grace, so we can reflect and reproduce them in & through our lives. (Mt 5:14-16; Phil. 2:13-16; 2 Pt 2:3,4)
- 3) In the process and pursuit of this purpose, God give us many opportunities and obligations; (*Eph. 5:22-6:9; Col 3:17-24*) relationships and responsibilities, *to practice and perfect this purpose.* Eph 4:1
- 4) Satan seeks to blind us to God's purposes by seducing and/or sidetracking us into pursuing his, our own, or other's purposes and priorities. (2 Cor 11:2,3) *Often, he accomplishes this by encouraging us to get so focused on the relationships and responsibilities of life, that we fail to fulfil God's ultimate purposes.* (John 10:10; James 1:12-18; Mark 4:18,19; James 4:4,17; Mt. 5:13)
➤ Paul warned of this in Phil 3:14-17
- 5) Eventually, we'll stand before God to give an account for how faithfully we focused on accomplishing His purposes. (Mt 25:21,23; Rev. 4:10,11; 2 Cor 5:10-20)

In order to prepare each of us for this inevitable day, God gives us:

1. His Holy Spirit (Ro 8:15; Gal. 4:6; 5:16; Ro 8:9)

1 Cor 2:12 *"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."*

2. His Word. (Ps. 19:7-11; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16,17) *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man (or woman) of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

3. His Pastors/Shepherds Jer. 3:15 *"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."* (Eph. 4:11)

A. The Goad of God's Shepherds: 2 Tim 4:1,2 *"Reprove, rebuke, exhort..."* ("Sharply" Titus 1:13)

B. The Goal of God's Shepherds: Present them (the sheep/church) to God "Perfect" !

Eph. 4:11-13 *"And he gave... pastors and teachers; For the perfecting (katartismos: furnishing) of the saints, for the work of the ministry, (diakonia: service)*

for the edifying (oikodomē: building) of the body of Christ: (1 Cor 12:27; Eph 1:22,23)

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, (Teleios: mature, complete, finished) unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"

Col. 1:27,28 *"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: (Elpis doxa: anticipation of honor) Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:"*

C. The responsibility of the "sheep": Heb 13:7,17 *"Obey (peithō: trust, obey, believe) them that have the rule over you, and submit (hypeikō: yield) yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."*

- 4. His Church (family):** Heb. 3:13; 10:24,25 *"let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*
- 5. His Commandments** Mt 22:37-40 *"love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, ... soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."*
(See also John 14:21 and Luke 6:46)
- 6. His Commission!** Mt 28:18-20 *"Jesus ...spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Amen.*

Conclusion:

- 1 Jn 2:28,29 *"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."*
- "Abide"** (meno: remain) In His Spirit, Word, Church, Commands, and Commission!

Application:

What are you doing with what God has given you to prepare for that day? Are You:

- Walking "in His Spirit"? (Ro 8; Gal 5)
- Studying/Obedying His Word? (Jms 1:22)
- Following His Shepherds? (Heb 13:7,17)
- Prioritizing His People (Church)? (Heb 10:25)
- "Keeping" / Obedying His Commands? (Mt 22:37-40)
- Fulfilling His Commission? (Mt 28:18-20)

"Two little lines I heard one day, Traveling along life's busy way;
 Bringing conviction to my heart, And from my mind would not depart;
 Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.
 Only one life, yes only one, Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
 Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet, And stand before His Judgment seat;
 Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.
 Only one life, the still small voice, Gently pleads for a better choice
 Bidding me selfish aims to leave, And to God's holy will to cleave;
 Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.
 Only one life, a few brief years, Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;
 Each with its days I must fulfill, living for self or in His will;
 Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last!
 Give me Father, a purpose deep, In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
 Faithful and true whatever the strife, Pleasing Thee in my daily life;
 Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.
 Only one life, yes only one, Now let me say, "Thy will be done";
 And when at last I'll hear the call, I know I'll say 'twas worth it all";
 Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last!" CT Studd