

MESSAGE 3: GOD'S FIVE PURPOSES FOR YOUR LIFE

Parts 1-3

"Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years... He did what was pleasing in the Lord's sight... Hezekiah trusted in the Lord... There was never another king like him in the land of Judah, either before or after his time. He remained faithful to the Lord in everything, and he carefully obeyed all the commands the Lord had given Moses. So, the Lord was with him, and Hezekiah was successful in everything he did." 2 Kings 18:2-7 (NLT)

"(Later) Hezekiah got sick. He was about to die. The prophet Isaiah said 'Prepare your affairs and your family. This is it: You're going to die. You're not going to get well.' Hezekiah turned away from Isaiah and, facing the wall, prayed to God: 'God, please, I beg you: Remember how I've lived my life. I've lived faithfully in your presence, lived out of a heart that was totally yours. You've seen how I've lived, the good that I have done.' ...Then God said, 'I've heard your prayer. I have seen your tears. Here's what I'll do: I'll add fifteen years to your life.'" Isaiah 38:1-5 (MSG)

"Be careful how you live. Live wisely, not foolishly. Make the most of your time and take every opportunity to do good because evil is everywhere. Don't live carelessly without thinking. Instead, make sure you understand what the Lord wants you to do with your life." Ephesians 5:15-17

"If you keep your life clean from sin, you will be an instrument that God can use for his highest purposes." 2 Timothy 2:21

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO WITH THE REST OF MY LIFE?

1. GOD WANTS ME TO _____

"LOVE the Lord your God with all your heart...and soul and mind and strength. This is the first and greatest commandment." Matthew 22:37-38

- THIS FIRST PURPOSE IS CALLED _____

"A sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life." Philippians 4:7 (MSG)

2. GOD WANTS ME _____

"Let us not give up the HABIT OF MEETING TOGETHER...instead let us encourage one another." Hebrews 10:25 (TEV)

- THIS SECOND PURPOSE IS CALLED _____

"Those who believed...were baptized and added to the church... They joined with the other believers and committed themselves to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship... They worshiped together regularly at the Temple...and met in small groups in homes..." Acts 2:41-42, 46

NOTE THE ORDER:

1. God wants me to BELIEVE in Jesus
2. Next, he wants me to be BAPTIZED
3. JOIN a church family

- 4. Commit to regular WORSHIP
- 5. Connect to a small group FELLOWSHIP

3. GOD WANTS ME TO _____
“Let us go on...and become mature in our understanding, as strong Christians ought to be.” Hebrews 6:1 (LB)

- THIS THIRD PURPOSE IS CALLED _____
“By now you should be teachers. Instead, you still need someone to teach you...!” Hebrews 5:12 (GW)

4. GOD WANTS ME TO _____
“God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other.” 1 Peter 4:10 (LB)

- THIS FOURTH PURPOSE IS CALLED _____
“What can I GIVE BACK to God for the blessings he’s poured out on me?” Psalm 116:12 (MSG)

5. GOD WANTS ME TO _____
“Through Christ, God has made peace between us and himself, and He gave us the work of telling everyone about the peace we can have with Him... So, we have been sent to speak for Christ!” 2 Corinthians 5:18, 20 (NCV)

- THIS FIFTH PURPOSE IS CALLED _____
“In our work together with God, we beg those of you who have received God’s grace TO NOT LET IT BE WASTED!” 2 Corinthians 6:1 (TEV)

MESSAGE 2: LEARNING MY TRUE IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Parts 1-2

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." 1 Peter 2:9-10

GOD'S TRUE VIEW OF YOU: IN CHRIST . . .

1.

"You have been CHOSEN by God himself!" 1 Peter 2:9 (LB)

- BECAUSE _____

"He chose us in him before the creation of the world, to be holy and blameless in his sight by his love."
Ephesians 1:4

- BECAUSE _____

"Jesus treated us much better than we deserve. He made us acceptable to God and gave us the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:7 (CEV)

2.

"You are a HOLY nation, a people BELONGING to God!" 1 Peter 2:9

"You are a people holy to the Lord your God...his treasured possession."

Deuteronomy 7:6 (NIV)

God says: "You are precious to me." Isaiah 43:4 (TEV)

- BECAUSE _____

"Look at the birds... God feeds them and you are far more valuable to Him than any birds!"

Luke 12:24

- BECAUSE _____

"You have been bought and paid for by Christ, so you belong to him..."

1 Corinthians 7:23 (LB)

3.

"Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God." 1 Peter 2:10

"I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself." Jeremiah 31:3 (NLT)

- BECAUSE _____
“God’s love is eternal and his faithfulness lasts forever.”

Psalm 100:5 (TEV)

4. _____
“At one time you did not know God’s mercy, but now you have received his mercy.”

1 Peter 2:10b (TEV)

“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

- BECAUSE _____
“I am the God who forgives your sins, and I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you.”
Isaiah 43:25 (TEV)

- BECAUSE _____
“For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God!”
Ephesians 1:7 (TEV)

5. _____
“You are royal priests...chosen to tell about the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” 1 Peter 2:9 (NCV)

“The capacity we have comes from God; it is he who made us capable of serving the new covenant...” 2 Corinthians 3:5b-6 (TEV)

- BECAUSE _____
“I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13

How should my identity affect how I act?
Romans 15:7, 1 Peter 2:17, Colossians 3:12, Ephesians 4:32, Hebrews 13:6

MESSAGE 1: YOUR TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Parts 1-3

*“There is a right time and a right way to do everything, but we know so little!”
Ecclesiastes 8:6 (TEV)*

WHEN SHOULD I MOVE FAST THIS YEAR?

1. WHEN GOD _____

*“Jesus said to them, ‘Come follow me...’ So, Simon and Andrew immediately left their nets and followed him.”
Mark 1:17-18 (NCV)*

“Without delay, I hurry to obey your command.” Psalm 119:60 (TEV)

2. WHEN I NEED TO _____

“If you are giving an offering at worship and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your offering and go immediately to that person and be reconciled. Then you can come back to worship and offer your gift.” Matthew 5:23-24

3. WHEN I FEEL _____

“RUN away from all evil things...” 1 Timothy 6:11 (NLT)

“RUN away from the worship of idols...” 1 Corinthians 10:14 (NCV)

“RUN away from sexual sin...” 1 Corinthians 6:18 (NLT)

4. WHEN I’VE MADE _____

“When you make a promise to God, keep it as quickly as possible. He isn’t happy with foolish people. Do what you promised to do!” Ecclesiastes 5:4 (TEV)

5. WHEN I HAVE AN _____

“Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, while it is in your power to act!” Proverbs 3:27 (NIV)

Jesus: “All of us must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the Father who sent me, because there is little time left before the night falls and all work comes to an end.” John 9:4 (NLT)

6. WHEN GOD OFFERS ME _____

“God is ready to help you RIGHT NOW! Today is the day of salvation!” 2 Corinthians 6:2 (NLT)

WHEN SHOULD I MOVE SLOWLY THIS YEAR?

“It’s smart to be patient.” Proverbs 14:29 (CEV)

1. WHEN I _____

“Zeal without knowledge is not good; a person who moves too quickly may go the wrong way.”
Proverbs 19:2 (NLT)

“To decide before knowing the facts is shameful and stupid.” Proverbs 18:13 (LB)

2. WHEN I'M _____

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” James 1:19 (NIV)

“Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who is quick-tempered makes foolish mistakes.”
Proverbs 14:29

3. WHEN MAKING _____

“Wicked people bluff their way (through life) but God’s people think before they take a step.” Proverbs 21:29 (CEV)

“Ponder the path of your feet, then all your ways will be sure.” Proverbs 4:26 (ESV)

“Sensible people will see trouble coming and avoid it, but an unthinking person will walk right into it and regret it later.” Proverbs 22:3 (TEV)

4. WHEN WAITING FOR _____

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven... A time to plant and a time to harvest...a time to scatter and a time to gather...” Ecclesiastes 3:1-5

“Keep on sowing your seed, for you never know which ones will grow – perhaps they all will!”
Ecclesiastes 11:6 (LB)

God says: “At the time I have decided, my words will come true. You can trust what I say about the future. It may take a long time, but keep on waiting – it will happen!” Habakkuk 2:3 (CEV)