



PEACE BY *piece* SERIES

CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL WEEK THREE: PURPOSE

Be Your Purpose

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. -1 Peter 2:9

What a beautiful picture... God CHOSE us. Wow. It's an awe-inspiring thought if you really think about it. So, God chose us, but what did he choose us to do? What is our purpose on this earth as followers of Christ? He called us out of the darkness of this world into His 'wonderful light' for a reason. What is that reason?

"What is my purpose"... that's a question we as humans often ask. People who are far from God ask it too. They try to find meaning in work, relationships, sex, drugs, yoga, meditation... whatever it may be. It's a natural yearning that God instilled in us. That yearning though, is meant for HIM. All other worldly pursuits are found lacking without Him. God has a plan for our lives, each of us, no matter our talents or skills. He wants us to prosper, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." He has hopes for us and a plan. It's our job to prayerfully ask the Lord what that plan is and listen for the voice of God in scripture, in prayer and when seeking Godly council with our church family. These are things that are a personal journey with the Lord, to find out specifically what His plan is for YOU. But we are all created to do some things corporately as well. Our main purpose is to worship, but what does that look like? I believe if we search the scriptures and do the things he asks of us, our specific purpose will be revealed.

"Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation." -Psalm 95:1

God wants us to SING! We all know what it's like to be in a good mood and you're driving down the road and "Life Is A Highway" comes on... what do we do? WE SING!! At least I do. Why? It's an expression of joy from our heart. Maybe that joy is misplaced and expressed in some mediocre 90's song, but that's what it is. Joy. God wants us to express our joy through song. We uplift and teach each other with songs and God enjoys it and is pleased when we do

it. So, sing praise to Him. Show your gratitude at God's goodness and power. He is pleased by it.

"And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." -Luke 22:19-20

God wants us to take communion to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made on that cross, taking ALL of our sin and giving us a path to living in the Kingdom both here on earth and for eternity with Him. Again... WOW! I get excited when I think about it! Jesus did that... endured that... for me! We are commanded to remember the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus in this way. All I can really say is... take it seriously. Just as we sing with joy in our hearts, take communion with a sense of awe and gratitude. If you do this, that time on a Sunday morning will be the most meaningful of your week, and it pleases the Lord.

"Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." -Matthew 28:18-20

The Great Commission as it is called. To make disciples. The Lord CHOSE us to recruit others in a sense. To tell the lost and dying world that they no longer have to live in sin and death. Jesus brought a new way, a new LIFE. Some of us are better at this than others. Some know the Bible cover to cover and have the ability to move others by the talents that God gave them. Most of us though... we're just regular people. How can I, just a regular guy, bring souls to the Lord? Luckily for us, the changing of the heart, that's God's job! All we have to do is speak truth into the lives of our friends and neighbors, love them as God does, let them see the changes in our lives and let GOD change their hearts. It's a beautiful plan and it's of the Lord.



Prayer

Listen for the voice of God, be obedient to it, praise Him and worship Him. That's really our purpose. To please God. He is our master and he has shown us grace. All he asks in return is obedience, faith, belief and worship.

This Christmas season, make it your mission to BE your purpose. If your talent is to make money, be generous with it. If you can cook, share your bounty with someone in need. If you have the gift of communication, speak the TRUTH into all around you. God is pleased when we realize and execute our purpose. Don't bury your talents. We know from scripture that God is displeased by that. Use what God has given you to praise and glorify His name. Sing! Remember. And tell others of the joy you have found in Jesus. Merry Christmas.