

MESSAGE

Occasion : Evening Worship
Date : March 29, 2009 / November 27, 2016

TITLE : LIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S PURPOSE
Text/s :

Dan 1:8

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.
(KJV)

Jer 9:23-24

23 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:
24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.
(KJV)

Jer 29:11

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
(KJV)

Isa 14:24

24 The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:
(KJV)

2 Tim 3:10

10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,
(KJV)

Bible Reading :

Eph 1:3-23

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.
7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;
9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:
10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:
11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:
12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.
13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,
14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,
16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;
17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,
20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,
21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:
22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,
23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.
(KJV)

Song/s :

INTRODUCTION

Daniel understood God's purpose. And when the Bible says, "he purposed in his heart" it means he aligned or set his heart according to God's purpose in his life. He knew the law of Moses. He knew what God strongly said to the nation of Israel.

Deut 6:12-13

12 Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

13 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

(KJV)

Deut 10:12

12 And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

(KJV)

Deut 10:20-21

20 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.

21 He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

(KJV)

Josh 22:5

5 But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

(KJV)

Josh 24:15

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

(KJV)

The following verses tell how Daniel lives according to God's purpose.

Dan 6:16

16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

(KJV)

Dan 3:16-18

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

(KJV)

Dan 6:20

20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

(KJV)

Some blessings of living according to God's purpose in our lives

A) Living according to God's purpose gives meaning to our lives

We were made to have meaning. This is why people try dubious methods, like astrology or psychics, to discover it. When life has meaning, you can bear almost anything. Without it, nothing is bearable.

B) Living according to God's purpose simplifies our lives

Simple life defines what you do and what you do not do. Your purpose becomes the standard you use to evaluate which activities are essential and which are not. What you should and should not do. You have better foundation on which to base your decisions, allocate your time, use your resources, etc.

People who do not live according to God's purpose try to do too much and this causes stress, fatigue, and conflict.

Prov 13:7

7 There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

(KJV)

C) Living according to God's purpose gives focus to our lives

It concentrates your effort and energy on what's important. You become effective by being selective.

Without purpose, you always keep changing directions, jobs, relationships, churches - hoping each change will settle confusion or fill emptiness in the heart.

The power of focus can be seen in light. Diffused light has little impact -but concentrate the same light as sun to a magnifying glass brings power. There is nothing potent as a focused life - one that is lived with purpose.

Phil 3:13

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

(KJV)

Eph 5:17

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

(KJV)

D) Living according to God's purpose motivates our lives

Purpose always produces passion. Nothing energizes like a clear purpose. On the other hand, passion dissipates when you lack purpose. Just getting out of bed becomes a major chore. Everything becomes meaningless. It is usually meaningless work, not overwork, that wears us down, saps our strength, and robs our joy.

E) Living according to God's purpose ensures our eternity

Dan 12:13

13 But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.
(KJV)

Dan 12:13

13 "But go on now to the end of your life and your rest; for you will rise again and have your full share of those last days."
(TLB)

1 Jn 2:28

28 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.
(KJV)

2 Tim 4:8

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.
(KJV)

1 Pet 5:4

4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.
(KJV)