PURPOSE IN ACTION

YOUR PLACE IN THE CHURCH

The Bible is clear in its presentation of 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.

I Peter 2:9

great are your purposes (Oh God) and mighty are your deeds. Your eyes are open to the ways of all mankind; you reward each person according to their conduct and as their deeds deserve.

Jeremiah 32:19

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

But the Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.

Luke 7:30

Some things to take away from these passages:

- You are special and chosen of God for a purpose that is only visible to you because you are enlightened. That is to say, you live in the light and truth of God's Word.
- God's purposes are great and when we live according to that purpose, we are rewarded greatly by Him.
- We are created to do good works. The good works we are called to do are things that God has specifically set up for us to accomplish in this life.
- The Pharisees had all the potential in the world, but they could not see their purpose because they had not been baptized and were therefore not living in the light of God's Word and purpose for them.

You might be saying to yourself, "all of this purpose seems pretty vague." But I would contend that the idea of purpose is only vague if we are unfamiliar with the Bible or we have chosen to look over the central themes of all scripture.

YPHEN STARTING

From the beginning, the Bible establishes absolutes about the world, life, and eternity that we can use to define our individual purpose. These are as follows:

- Sin came into the world, and because of sin all fall short of righteousness and goodness, save Jesus.
 - Jesus came in love, for the sake of every person, to redeem us sin.
- There are still people today that have not so much as heard about this good news of Jesus' love, redemption, or the promise of the better life that it offers.

To some this may seem reductive, but the story of the Bible is one of love and the will-ingness of people to take action, serving Jesus, to rescue others from the world of sin. In this, our purpose is evident in the same way that it was evident to every character of Christian history.

So now that we have laid this foundation, we must take a look at our purpose in action; specifically in three areas of our lives that are the most prevalent.

- Our Home
- Our Church
- Our Community

Especially at this pivotal time in our lives, we are meant to be the church for the church as we navigate daily devotion, personal development, and Christian evangelism in every aspect of our lives. We are not called to follow, but to lead, doing so with excellence and passion for the Will of God.

To begin to establish this lifestyle of leading, we must first look inwardly at the center of our homes and personal lives.

What should we be doing, habitually, at home for our own benefit and the benefit of our family?

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.

When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

I Corinthians 13:11-12.

From there we move to our church involvement, where I believe we as hyphen truly must pursue excellence and the lead the pack when it comes to church-day operations.

We are positioned to make the greatest impact on any church body that we come in contact with for a variety of reasons.

- We are a motivated generation with the energy to be engaged and involved anywhere and everywhere we commit to being involved.
 - Youth/Children look up to us.
 - More seasoned adults follow our lead.

Every midweek and weekend service should be one that is motivated and informed by the actions of its young adults. We should be greeting and interacting with new people every service. We should be leading the charge of worship and engagement with the praise & worship service as well as the preaching. We should be leading the congregation to the altar and be actively engaged in praying for people across the sanctuary.

These actions are not just reserved for the "good services" but should become a staple in the way that we conduct ourselves week in and week out. The future of the church rests solely in our hands and it is time that we take responsibility for taking action in a way that will change the spiritual landscape; building faith and fulfilling God's Will in ever service.

And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men (and women) shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

Acts 2:17



Finally, we look to our community for our third and final area of influence as we ponder what must we do as Christians to impact the world around us in a way that will show the love of God and bring the gospel to the forefront.

- Frequent the same places.
- Make Conversation.
- Be Intentional.
- Seek Out Interaction/Intervention.
- Always Conduct Yourselves with Honor and in Love.

In a world that is untrustworthy, sinful, and without honor, we are called to be a light in the darkness as we share the gospel of Jesus and His love with everyone we encounter, without exception.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16.