

*God's Purpose
Can't Be Stopped*

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Jesus Christ is full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Still, He always expects grace to be absolutely established in truth. In other words, grace is not something that gets me off the hook when I have done wrong. Grace is the most beautiful virtue in the world, and it is centered in the truth of the perfect work of God at Calvary—the Finished Work.

The throne of grace was made for sinners. Yet, the only way that anyone can experience its protection and its provision is through the Cross, which bridged the gap between us and the holy throne of grace.

God's purpose is that all men might see the fullness of His glory that was revealed in Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 1:9-10)—that men might recognize His greatness and then receive His goodness. This booklet may challenge your thinking concerning God's purpose in your life. My prayer is that it will reveal the truth, and that the

truth will establish a throne of grace in your heart.

Chapter One

THE PLAN OF A MAN OR THE PURPOSE OF GOD?

“Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?

“In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him” (Ecclesiastes 7:13-14).

“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil” (Ecclesiastes 8:11).

God brings prosperity into our lives and then, right beside it, adversity. The passage in Ecclesiastes 7:13-14 tells why: so we cannot discover anything that we do not need to know. When a person cannot figure out a situation, he is reduced to faith in the character and nature of God.

But when a person is overwhelmed by circumstances and chooses to follow a more “practical” or “sensible” route, he may indeed be leaning upon his own understanding, thereby missing God’s purpose. Since things seem to be going smoothly at first, he presumes that all is well.

Some people leave good churches—not just to find another good church, which would be fine. But often they end up with their lives in bondage, with no spiritual covering. When they leave the perfect will of God, they are apt to say, “God is blessing me more than ever.” They say, “I know I’m in God’s will because God is blessing me.”

But what may seem to be a blessing is not the proof of whether a person is in the will of God. A person might be crucified and be in God’s will. The difference is that it is the work of God, not of men.

God’s Purpose Produces Holiness

Morality affects how we relate to each other, but holiness reflects our relationship to God. Personal holiness, therefore, is revealed by how we relate to people in the light of Christ. Holiness is also revealed in the way that we relate to

people who have positions of authority in our lives.

When God is working out His purpose, He will use people and circumstances that we may not understand. But holiness is a throne of grace that brings us to our feeble knees and makes us strong in prayer, with a heart that sees God (Hebrews 12:14). And, when a believer recognizes God's purpose above his own concepts, in due season, God will reveal it (1 Corinthians 13:12).

The Purpose of Oneness in Christ

Someone who has cancer came into my office for prayer. She was going in for surgery, and the secretaries gathered with me as we prayed for her. It was a beautiful time of brokenness. Then I told her something that Christians must understand and really grasp the reality of it: "We are absolutely one with you. When you go into that operating room, we are with you in heart, and we will be with you in prayer."

We can understand how Christians should treat each other by understanding holiness. The Word of God says that we are members of one another, (1 Corinthians 12:26-27)—"members in particular." Based upon 1 Corinthians 6:17, Ephesians 2:15, and Ephesians 5:30, we are members

not just of His Body, but of His flesh and His bones—he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit, and we are made one new man in Him.

What a great comfort for that person going into surgery for cancer. She is executing faith beautifully, but it was a great blessing to look into her eyes and say, “We are one with you, and we are right there with you.” What an amazing principle.

Think of it! We are in Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ is in us. He is our Head, and we are His body. Therefore we are one.

So many problems and misunderstandings would be nullified by abiding in God’s purpose, in the reality of our unity as members of one another in the Body of Christ. When we come to the place where we grasp this and really understand it, we will know the presence and power of God.

Uphold the Authority You Are Under

Whether it is in business or marriage or family or church or school, we need to uphold the authority that we are under. Remember, the way we relate to those in authority will reveal how holy we are in Jesus Christ.

One of the greatest problems in churches

today, generally speaking, is upholding God's authority. When we do, if it is true, godly leadership—not that which manipulates or controls through power lust or approbation lust—then it becomes an umbrella of protection. It is such a beautiful thing to be covered by an umbrella of protection from heaven that God gives when we uphold the authority that we are under.

People in positions of leadership are accountable to God for what He has given them. Proverbs 22:11 says, "He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the King shall be his friend." Those who are pure in heart, who love purity and who are gracious in their speech, they will have the king as their friend.

Chapter Two

GOD'S PURPOSE WILL STAND

“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” (Isaiah 14:24).

“For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?” (Isaiah 14:27).

God has a purpose in the things that go on in a person's life, and according to Isaiah 14:24, God's purpose will stand. Again, in Romans 9:11, the purpose of God shall stand.

God's purpose cannot be nullified. What a comforting thing to know! And what a thing to believe and understand. “His purpose cannot be ineffective, and it will not disappoint,” according to the original text in Jeremiah 51:29. God's purpose shall be performed.

In Jeremiah 4:28, God said, “I have spoken something, I have purposed it, and I will not

change My mind about it. I purposed it, and I will not turn back from it.”

Here we are, grasping faith, getting a hold of truth, living in a marriage of promises, and then experiencing and getting hold of God’s purpose, knowing that He will not turn back from it. We cleave to Him as members of His body, flesh, and bones.

The Finished Work: Predestined in His Purpose

“...According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Ephesians 3:11).

“I have purposed it, I will also do it,” (Isaiah 46:11c).

God said, “I have a purpose in My plan, and I will do it—and not a single thing can stop Me.”

Many of us have done different things for God, whether on the mission field, in marriage, in the family, or in business. And when we have grasped the eternal purpose of Ephesians 3:11, we begin to realize that God’s purpose is not a normal thing, it is not a common thing. It is a fantastic thing when He predestinates according to His purpose and to the pleasure of His good will (Ephesians 1:9, 11).

We are elect through God’s foreknowledge

of our free volitional decisions to accept Christ. We are elect according to His purpose (Romans 9:11).

He sees beforehand every decision we will make. Then He says, "Okay, these people are going to do this. Then, in 2004, they are going to do this. They will make a series of good decisions. Also, I see some bad decisions they will make because they will not hear Me. Therefore, because I do not violate their volition, I must have a purpose while knowing every good decision and every bad decision they will make."

Remember that prosperity and adversity are side by side, for this is the work of God.

A Miracle Cure without the Cross?

Some time ago, I saw a program about synthetic cells. It spoke of a scientific experiment in which scientists were trying to develop rats that do not age. Imagine it! That could mean that the lives of athletes could be enhanced so that nobody would know how long they could play.

It means that when your age catches up with you, the synthetic cells could maintain the newness of physical life inside of you through a miracle revealed by God. If God allowed that discovery to be implemented, maybe we could

get back to 120 years of preaching as in the Old Testament times. Of course, the number of people in hospitals and nursing homes would decrease—but it all would depend on getting those synthetic cells.

You say, “Wouldn’t the population of the earth explode? How will anyone die?”

Oh, they will die. You can be sure of that. People will die because the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). God has spoken it, still He will follow through with His purpose, which is to offer sinners eternal life that only comes through the sacrifice of His Son.

Chapter Three

NO PRICE IS TOO GREAT

“There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat.

“But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?

“For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.

“When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me” (Matthew 26:7-10).

In Matthew 26:7-10, the disciples thought that Jesus Christ was wasting the purpose of money when He let the woman pour the expensive ointment upon Him that filled the room with that beautiful aroma. They said, “What is the purpose of this waste?”

But this is something we must understand:

For *every* part of God's purpose, there is never any waste. Here was a woman, Mary Magdalene, who had been filled demons, and those demons were cast out of her (Luke 8). But think of it! With all the sins that she committed, she ended up loving much. In Luke 7:46-48, Jesus confronted the Pharisees with their sin by saying, "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little."

Now, we do not mean that we ought to sin to discover love. Of course not! Sin is terrible. It grieves the Holy Spirit, breaks the heart of God, has consequences, and brings about discipline. Yet, even though that is true, God takes that sin, and if we cooperate with Him, He brings it into His eternal purpose. His eternal provision, His eternal umbrella, is ours because of this: God loves the sinner—so much that He bore all of our sins in His body and took them to Calvary, where He bled and died. That is how much He has done in our behalf in dealing with our sin.

How the Devil's Work Is Destroyed

"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8b).

Without a manifestation of God's life, Satan's work is not destroyed. If we do not have Easter every morning, if we do not celebrate the Resurrection each day, there is no destruction of Satan's works.

With all of this, a manifestation of the Holy Spirit is given to us (1 Corinthians 12:7). We are living epistles, written in the heart, known and read by all men, "manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God" (see 2 Corinthians 3:2-3).

"But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of *the* truth [(doctrine)], commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God" (2 Corinthians 4:2).

Notice how he uses a definite article, speaking of a manifestation of *the* doctrine. By manifesting the truth, we manifest the knowledge of God's glory, shining in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6), and the works of the devil are destroyed. It is not to go around with visions we devised on our own, with gifts that we don't have, where there is no manifestation of God's glory in our knowledge. But when we have the

manifestation of God's glory in our knowledge, shining in the face of Jesus Christ, we become a reflection of His very essence and His character. We have faith-rest and we function in peace.

Jesus said in John 17:6, "I have manifested Your name—which reveals Your nature—unto the men which You gave Me." And in Titus 1:3, "[God] hath in due times manifested his word through preaching." That manifestation is the very thing that Satan hates, because it is the thing that destroys his work.

In 1 John 1:2, God manifested His life to us. That means *now*, in our daily lives, in friendships and in marriage. It is so much fun when you love your spouse, when you are one. It is so much fun to consistently take care of one another in the details of life.

Lay Down False Burdens

Oh, to have the Word of God dwelling so richly in our hearts, to have psalms and hymns and joy, making a melody in our hearts! I think I can understand what it might be like in heaven, with all the singing, and all the angels, and all the glorified souls there. Once in awhile they may see us cry over losing them, but they say, "I'm not going to look at that. They'll be okay."

But here, there is just too much to rejoice in!”

With all of the music and all of the joy in heaven, God loves when His people experience heaven on earth. He loves to see our souls on fire with joy because we have the manifestation of a Spirit-filled life on the inside. No gloom. No sadness. No negative vibrations. No carrying around false burdens. But when Calvary is excluded, the life of Christ cannot be manifested to take away the false burdens.

False burdens are those burdens which, though they may be real, we refuse to give up by taking up a daily cross. The burdens wear us down, so we try to figure out how to have the kind of a life that can take care of those burdens—when Calvary will take care it all.

Just imagine what God has in store for us beyond what we ask or think. Christ’s life manifested in frail, earthen vessels to reach out and to reveal His glory to lost souls: This is God’s purpose, and it cannot be stopped.

CONCLUSION

When Christ came to earth as a man, He had one thought and one purpose—to redeem mankind. There was nothing “normal” about His life. His birth was announced to humble men by the voices of angels. Kings from far-off lands sought the Christ child and brought Him gifts. At twelve, He taught the Scriptures to religious men in the temple. In the last years of His ministry, He taught rugged men, who were not known for their ability, spiritual or otherwise. Those men would take the Gospel message into all the world, fulfilling Christ’s purpose on earth.

Today, we have the same purpose. Though the methods may be different, the need and the message remain the same. God has not changed, and neither has the devil. The difference is Calvary. There, Satan was defeated, once and for all. Satan may throw out his accusations and try to divert our gaze. But neither the grave nor hell

could hold back our Savior from a glorious resurrection. Crucified, buried, and raised with Him, we too are unstoppable when we have His purpose as our own.

Father, thank You that You have revealed these things to us—weak men and women, sinners at our best. When we are troubled on every side, perplexed by the seeming contradictions of our circumstances, make us constantly aware of your purpose in it all. Thank You that Your plan includes the “all things” (Romans 8:28). Therefore, we shall not be moved! In Jesus’ precious name, Amen.