

## 30.4 On Purpose

Greetings Patriots, this is Perry Greene with GNA. Always I thank you for listening in on our podcasts. Today's title is, "***On Purpose.***"

A few weeks ago I "overheard" a recording of a speaker who made the point I want to talk about today. I am sorry that I can't give you the speaker's name or cite a source. The speaker made an impact on me and I want to share this with you. I think as you listen you will instinctively know it is true.

My formative years were during a time when teens and young adults wanted to go out and "*find themselves.*" Many of them left jobs, schools, and families to try a variety of avenues of self-discovery. These included a variety of beliefs such as Oriental religions with meditation. They all had in common the drive to find their purpose in life.

This may sound familiar as Christians, too go on this quest. Have you ever prayed, "***Lord, show me my purpose.***"? The more I think about this pursuit and approach to God, the more I realize that this is not about God or His glory. It is more about my ego. It is about trying to find a niche in life that no one else can have, just me. How egocentric is that?

The truth is, we already have that. You are unique just as you are. No one else can be you, not even your identical twin. The request we should be making is, "Lord, show me YOUR purpose."

In some ways, each of our life's purpose is not so unique. We all have a same basic purpose before God. Solomon stated it in **Ecclesiastes 12:13** (NKJV):

**<sup>13</sup> Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:  
Fear God and keep His commandments,  
For this is man's all.**

Years later the apostle, Paul makes an important point with **Romans 8:28** (NKJV) when he says:

**<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.**

We are called according to the purpose of God, not ours. Jesus demonstrated that very idea in His calling and life. He was ultimately called to God's purpose in His death, burial, and resurrection. In Gethsemane He begged for there to be another way of salvation for man. He pleaded for the Father to remove the cup of suffering that He was about to face. That was not God's purpose for Jesus. He is the "way to the Father, and no one comes to the Father but by Him" according to **John 14:6**.

That same death burial and resurrection provides purpose for us. **Romans 6:1-4** (NKJV) is a great reminder for us. We read:

**What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? <sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

Do you remember what Jesus said about finding and losing our lives? It involves purpose for His sake. Notice **Matthew 16:25** (NKJV):

**<sup>25</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**

I think this is an ambition that God has placed in us. Have you ever heard someone say something like, “I want to give my life to a cause greater than myself.”? In other words, each of them is willing to lose their life to find it.

How much more important is it to lose ourselves in God and His purposes? It is eternally more important. He promises to bless those who are called according to HIS purposes, not their own. This involves some self-examination. It involves some letting go. It involves some lifting up. We are most blessed when our purpose becomes His purpose.

Let’s not forget the intentions of God for us. Jeremiah spoke to the Jews of their seventy year captivity in Babylon. God reminded them in **Jeremiah 29:11-13** (NKJV) that He intended to work out His purposes in them. He also does so for us through Christ. Notice the text:

**<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.**

Before we close, let me read three more passages on purpose.

**Psalm 138:8** (ESV, emphasis added, PMG):

**The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

**Proverbs 20:5** (ESV, emphasis added, PMG)

**The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.**

**2 Timothy 1:9** (NKJV, emphasis added, PMG):

**<sup>9</sup> who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,**

Keep The Light of the LORD’s Purpose Burning!