

01/25/04 – “YOU WERE PLANNED FOR GOD’S PURPOSE”

YOU WERE MADE FOR GOD’S PLEASURE

Do I believe that my life was planned by God to give pleasure back to Him?

Many of us try to be like everyone else but God wants us to be authentic – “*For the Lord takes pleasure in His people...*” Psalm 149:4

“...*trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.*” – Ephesians 5:10

CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIP NOT RELIGION

What is the chief end for man? To glorify God & enjoy Him for ever

Most religions are non-relational – they are simply a system of man-made rules, a code of ethics or traditions

The religion of men brings bondage, conditional love, guilt-driven & manipulative

We weren’t born again into a religion. **We were born** again into a relationship, **a relationship that is to bring pleasure to God**

A relationship of faith, hope, love, grace, loyalty, forgiveness & acceptance, communication, honesty – **He’ll never leave us or forsake us!**

CREATED FOR WORSHIP

God is looking for worshippers...John 4:24 – “*God is spirit; and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*”

Worship is more than a song, a liturgy or church service - It’s about intimacy with our Creator embodied in a lifestyle of love & service

We worship God in spirit – He is a Spirit & we are to live for Him & through Him in truth

Truth demands that our lives line up with His precepts - **Worship is a lifestyle**

HOW DO WE LIVE A LIFE OF WORSHIP, A LIFE PLEASING TO GOD?

Romans 12:1 & 2 – “*I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*”

We are urged to **dedicate** ourselves to God – When you were saved, did God get all of you? Even your wallet?

It’s a **voluntary** giving – Present your bodies – **Offer your bodies** – A living sacrifice – Free will submitted to His will

Worship is **practical** – A lifestyle that honors & loves God with all your heart, mind, & strength

WORSHIP IS COMPLETE DEDICATION OF LIFE TO GOD

We are not just to die for Him **but to live for Him**...“God wants the whole enchilada” – What part doesn’t He get?

If we let Him have it all, He’ll meet you every step of the way! – We can trust His guidance & goodness

It is always the right thing to obey His voice – His grace is sufficient...**The steps of a righteous man are ordered by Lord**

The principle of insulation – We are to be in the world but not of it – We don’t derive our life from the allure of world systems

We are pilgrims & sojourners – We are here a very short time in light of eternity – a limited window to give pleasure to God on earth

The principle of transformation – metamorphosis – God transforms us through His Word, the power of the Holy Spirit & circumstances

Not to be conformed to this world or shaped into its mold – “If you follow the crowd you will get lost in it”

THREE REASONS WHY WE SHOULD LIVE FOR GOD’S PLEASURE

Living a life of worship is **THE GOOD LIFE** – God is good & He’s good all the time – God knows what He’s doing with you

“*For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.*” Jer. 29:11

Living a life of worship is **PLEASING** - It’s to be our ambition to please Him & to honor Him

“*Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.*” – 2 Corinthians 5:9

Living a life of worship is **PERFECT** - It makes us whole, complete - doesn’t mean we’re sinless but means we’re being perfected

Even with imperfections, we have a place before God that brings Him pleasure...**It’s not about me; “It’s all about Him”**