

GOD HAS A PURPOSE AND PLAN

Text:

Introduction: God has a specific purpose in mind and is now acting toward that end. As far as God is concerned, in His mind, He has already accomplished that purpose. We have been saved, sanctified, justified, and indwelt, yet we are still in the process toward God's ultimate end for us.

- We have the standing before God, but our present state is not yet what God has purposed.

I. GOD'S PURPOSE IS SEEN IN MANY WAYS

1. **He Will Judge:** God is showing **who** is the boss..(Isa. 14:26)
2. **He Will Direct:** God has plans in mind for each of us and will lead us if we allow. (Ro. 8:38)
3. **He Will Work Through Christ:** Christ has already done much but He has yet to set up His kingdom and rule the world for a thousand years and then bring things to an end. (Eph. 3:11)
4. **He Will Carry Out His Plan:** The purpose of God was set before the creation and will not be changed to or by something that man dreams up. (2 Tim. 1:9)

II. EVERYONE IS ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER OF GOD'S PURPOSE

1. **Nothing Changes God's Purpose:**
 - Prayer changes people and things - but not God's purpose. (Dan. 4:35; 6:27; Phil. 2:13)
 - How many of us have questioned God when He didn't do as we expected and then got upset?
2. **Which Side Of God's Purpose Are You On?**
 - We can **walk** with Him, allowing Him to work His purpose and plans through and for us.
 - If we are God's children, He has a plan for us.
 - If we aren't allowing Him to work His plan for us, then He will bring things into our lives that will help us change our direction. Has God ever done this to you?

III. GOD HAS BEEN WORKING OUT HIS PURPOSE

1. **"In beginning, God said..."** God had a purpose and a plan:
 - God created the heavens and the earth..
 - God created man...
 - Man tried to trip up God's plan by eating forbidden fruit..God tripped man out of the garden.
 - God made clothes of skin..heading toward his goal of shed blood for man's sins..
 - Time wore on and man became wicked and none but Noah found grace in God's eyes..
 - After the flood Mankind gathered at Babel with a purpose..to build a tower to heaven..this was not God's purpose so He scattered mankind across the face of the earth.
 - God called a man named Abraham to further His purpose of having His own Nation - Family
 - God made a nation from Abraham which found itself in bondage in Egypt..God's purpose was for them to know Him - and they did ..in the wilderness.

- Out of this nation came Jesus Christ - the one that would complete God's plan:
 - to destroy the work of the devil
 - to set up the church which would show God's wisdom to the heavens
 - Christ's blood enabled God to gather to Himself a people desiring to follow His plan.
- God set the path with the coats of skin - all sin must be dealt with by shed blood - of His Son:
 - God's purpose from the beginning has been to gather a people for His own:
 - the people are sinful
 - God provided a remedy
 - Washed them in the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ
 - Then cleansed, justified, forgiven, they become a part of His family, His People
 - They become a part of His eternal goal - the people of His eternal city

IV. GOD IS ACTIVE IN HIS PURPOSE AND PLAN TODAY

1. **God is active in redemption.** (Jn. 3:17) He is drawing souls to Himself every day.
2. **God is active in guiding nations.** (Ro. 13:1) Nations that honor God often thrive, while a nation that dishonors God seldom prospers or survives..How many nations have come and gone?
3. **God is active in protecting His own children.** Every one of us have had God's protective hand around us at one time or another.
4. **God is active in guiding us.** (Ps. 32:8) God will guide us in every phase of our lives..no matter what
 - Just take an inventory of your life and see what God has done.
5. **God is active in teaching us.** (1 Jn. 2:27) Everyday God reveals something about Himself to us.
6. **God is active in providing our needs.** (Mt. 6:33) Everyone of us can testify of God's provisions.
7. **God is active in His time table.** (Acts 1:7) (Isa. 40:31) Remember, God doesn't go by our timetable
8. **God is active in His Church through His Holy Spirit and His Gifts:** (Eph. 4; Ro. 12) If you see a dead church, it is because they want it that way.
9. **God is active in controlling the physical world:** (Acts 14:17; Col. 1:16, 17) Scientists don't begin to grasp the active work of God in the universe..If God can control the universe, surely He won't any problem helping direct our lives.
10. **God is active in answering prayer:** (Acts 12:5) God is in the business of answering prayer..look back through your life and try to count the times God answered your prayers. Take time to pray.

CONCLUSION

1. God has a plan and purpose for your life. Don't you think He can run your life better than you?
2. You must belong to His family for Him to become involved, do you?
3. If you belong to God's family, are you allowing God to have His way in your life?