

## GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE WORLD

### Ephesians 1:9-14

**Introduction:** "What are we here for? Where did everything come from?" Questions most people of every generation have asked. So, as Christians, let us ask, "What is God's purpose for the world?"

1. The Mystery of God's Purpose: A secret hid in the heart of God until the day comes for Him to reveal it. what secret? All things gathered together in Christ - the secret God kept from the Old Testament prophets. The secret God kept in his heart - His intention for this universe: TO MAKE CHRIST HEAD OVER ALL THINGS.
  - There are two ways to see things - as most people do, that of philosophy, of despair, there is no meaning, no purpose, life has no reason, no purpose to plan, etc.
  - Or the way God reveals - there is a purpose behind it all and that purpose is the mystery, hid in God's heart until the day comes to reveal it.
  - It is no hidden because of some unforeseen development, BUT it has always been in God's heart and mind and it has not changed, nor ever been impeded.
  - There is a purpose for all history which our lives are following - all creation has been and continues to move toward that great goal in God's heart and mind.
  
2. The Management of God's Purpose: As "manager" God will gather together in one, in Jesus Christ all things.
  - Some things we can see, some things we can hope for as it all guides and sustains through history and in OUR time to be in God's "management."
  - For instance, God's "management" of the creation. There were millions of years of preparation, oil, reefs, limestone, volcanoes, glacial ages, etc., all a part of God's management through the ages, all preparing for mankind - people - US.
  - God prepared the world for people. Through the ages, God began to teach man the language of heaven, the temple, sacrifices, rituals, priesthood, atonement, etc.
    - Prophets rise, reveal more of God, the prophecy of the coming of the Messiah, even the place of the Messiah's birth, then John the Baptist comes and preaches, "behold, the Messiah."
    - The world is getting ready for the coming of Jesus Christ - the Bible, the Gospel, Missions, all foretelling of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - Has God ever been stopped? *Romans 8:22-23* - The world is still waiting. *Revelation 6:10-11* - How long must the world wait?
    - Some are waiting for the "fullness" of God's Law.
    - *Genesis 50:24-26* - 400 years passed before God raised up Moses and delivered the people from Egyptian captivity, but it came, just as Joseph said it would.

### I. GOD'S PURPOSE REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST

1. Jesus was not some late development, but was in God's heart and mind from the very beginning. All things shall find meaning and purpose in Jesus Christ.
  - Outside Jesus Christ there is no meaning or purpose - there is no real life.
  - Religions that leave Jesus Christ out are just that - a "religion."
  - Jesus spoke of a vine and it's branches. Jesus being the head and the Church is the body.

2. **Matthew 16:18** - A frequently misinterpreted passage the "gates of hell are not going to storm the kingdom of God."
  - Jesus said the power of hades (death) will not be able to hold down or imprison His Church.
  - Death/Hades is universal and destructive to people for all will experience death but that is God's purpose, whatever cannot be summed up in Jesus Christ is to be taken away, burned, and will die.

## II. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST

1. God intends for people to be the "praise of his glory."
  - God assures believers that their full and true life is beyond hades, death, the grave.
  - Sadly, many think and teach that death is the end and that there is nothing beyond the grave, that all is empty, void.
  - Some teach that one is reincarnated over and over until ultimately reaching a state of "bliss."
  - Some teach that beyond the grave there is nothing but empty silence.
  - God says that there is a place built for believers and it is described by John in the book of Revelation.
  - God wants people to love Him, to live with Him, to Praise Him and that whosoever believes in Jesus Christ shall spend eternity with Him.

## III. GOD'S PURPOSE OF FAITH

1. It is God's purpose for believers that they achieve this final eternal life with Him through faith, hope and trust in Jesus Christ.
  - Without seeing all that God has promised, believers still believe with total dependence and weight of souls being on Jesus Christ.
  - Believers rest by FAITH alone on Jesus Christ.
2. Why did God choose FAITH as the way to have eternal life?
  - It honors God for people to trust Him. **John 6:28-29** - The greatest work by which man can glorify God is to believe.
  - It opens the doors of blessings and assurance. **Hebrews 11:10, 16** - God rewards faith. When one believes God and trusts God in all of his/her life, God rewards that person.
  - It leads to open commitment. Remember Nicodemus? Lack of faith creates "secret" disciples if there is such a thing.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Why are you here? Are you fulfilling God's purpose and plans for you?
2. It is only through Jesus Christ that you can ever become what God wants you to become.
3. God rewards the believer's faith. How is your faith?
4. God is in charge and according to God's time table, things will come to pass.