Purpose II Corinthians 3:18 Associate Pastor Duane Lawrence

Why am I here? Why are you here? All of us at one time or another have asked this question. God has a purpose for your life and He has placed you here on earth to fulfill that purpose.

I. Our heavenly Father has a "very unique" plan for your life – Ephesians 1:3-4

- A. Do not compare your plan with some else's plan
- B. Do not covet someone else's plan
- C. Do not condemn someone else's plan

The blessings of God are predominantly spiritual. He does bless us with physical blessings but health, wealth, and prosperity to us as believers are not guaranteed. God, in His care for us has already given believers blessings –

II. The sufferings that we are experiencing now and will experience in the future are insignificant

II Corinthians 4:17 – "is producing" – "working" – "accomplishing"

- A. Light affliction weightless, though the pressure is intense, it is still light
- B. Lasting for a very short while (moment)
- C. Limited restrictions (will only go so far)

The sufferings that we are experiencing now, should be considered as weightless and lasting for only a "brief moment" because of the future glory we will experience with Jesus forever.

Much of the work the Lord does in our earthly life centers on our character. He shows us how to be as loving, kind, and peaceful as He is. Jesus is fulfilling His purpose in our lives as He works in us producing character that brings Him glory and good to the people whom we will come in contact with.

III. Another process that is taking place in our lives as we fulfill the purpose of God is that of transformation – Romans 12:1-2

- A. Holy set apart to be used by God
- B. Acceptable pleasing to Him
- C. Reasonable makes sense to do it
- D. Transformed changed

We as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ should allow Him to change our hearts and minds because spiritual transformation starts in the heart and mind.

IV. As we continue to fulfill the purpose of God in our lives our primary goal should be to become more like Christ – Philippians 2:5

- A. All godly action, attitude, and ambition begins with the "renewing of the mind"
- B. Right thinking produces right action, attitude, and ambition
- C. We should think and act like Jesus

As we submit, surrender, and serve in the power of the Holy Spirit, we are being transformed more and more into His image.

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- V. God did not wait for us to improve our attitude, behavior or conduct before Christ died for us but while we were still in our sin, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
 - A. God loved us when we were still in our sin
 - B. God loved us while we were still without strength
 - C. God loved us while we were still in an ungodly situation

God loves us just the way we are; but He loves us too much to leave us the way we are.

VI. When you know your purpose, you will serve from a sincere heart – Colossians 3:17

- A. Submit to the Father
- B. Surrender to the Son
- C. Serve in the power of the Holy Spirit

God has a unique plan for every person's life, but Christians all share one goal: to be conformed to His image. This process begins here on earth and continues when we arrive in heaven, where we will then begin our heavenly life.

- VII. God has given you a gift, and in some cases, more than one gift. Whatever your gift is, God wants you to use that gift or gifts to fulfill His purpose for your life.
 - A. Ask God to help you DISCOVER YOUR GIFT -
 - B. Ask God to help you DEVELOP YOUR GIFT -
 - C. Ask God to help you DEMONSTRATE YOUR GIFT -

God has a wonderful plan (purpose) for your life and He wants you to reflect His love and glory to the world.

Follow His Plan - Fulfill His Purpose - Function in His Power