

Lesson 8 - God's Purposes for Us

I. Colossians 1:21-29

- A. This section reminds us that it is Jesus who now defines who we are. It is not our job, our friends, our family, or anything else that truly defines us. You now have a new identity in Christ and your purpose for life is defined by Him. So, let's continue the exciting journey in discovering what God is doing with you, and what he will do you with you.
- B. Words and concepts
 - 1. **Holy** - To be holy or "sanctified" means to be set apart or dedicated to something. When you were converted and baptized, God "set you apart" or "dedicated" you to himself for his purposes it live for him and according to his desires. This means you are no longer a part of the world, even though you live in the world.
 - 2. **Faith** - Real faith demonstrates itself through action. If one has faith in God, then he will do what God asks, even if it seems a worldly way may be a more sure way. (James 2:17-20). To have "faith" also means to be "faithful" to God.
 - 3. **Hope** - Our hope, is not a mere wish, but what we desire or live for. In a sense, it is our "goal" (Heb 11:1), and is what we pattern our life after. Our hope is to be with God eternally.
 - 4. **Gospel** - The Gospel means "Good News." The Good News that you heard was the Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and rose from the grave, giving you a way to be saved and reconciled to God. You obeyed the Gospel and became a saved child of God. (1 Cor 15:1-4)
 - 5. **Minister** - Also can be rendered "servant." Minister is not a title, but a servant dedicated to a particular area of service. It does not merely refer to full-time preachers, clergy, etc., but is a description of all Christians as all Christians are servants of God and minister in various ways.
 - 6. **Stewardship** - Also can be rendered "commission." This is where an owner entrusts a duty, responsibility, or care to a servant. That person is often called a "steward." He does not own what he has been entrusted with, but manages, oversees, and executes it in service of the owner.
 - 7. **Gentile** - Refers to outsiders, those who were not Jews. God's saving

activity was not reserved for the Jews, but came through the Jews for the whole world, which means it was for Gentiles as well.

II. A New Direction and New Identity for your Life:

A. Your former condition:

(v.21) - "...you were formerly _____ and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds..."

B. What Christ did for you:

1. (v.22a) - "Yet now he has _____ you in his fleshly body through death,..."
2. (v.22b) - "...**in order to** present you before him _____ and blameless

a. Consider this illustration of what holiness is:



Many people have various kinds of dishes in their kitchen. They all have different purposes. If someone has a set of fine china in a hutch, it has been "set apart" or "dedicated" for a particular purpose. These are not containers to feed the dog with, to pick up trash, or do anything else of that nature. They have been given a distinct identity and are dedicated to a specific purpose. That is what it means to be "made holy." You have been set apart for God and his purposes.

- b. God has set _____ apart, dedicated for his purposes.
(insert your name)
- c. You are no longer who you were before. You now have a new identity and purpose because you now belong to God. God cleansed you and now defines who you are and what your purpose in life is.

C. A Condition of remaining holy:

1. (v.23) - "If you indeed _____ in the faith firmly_____ and _____ and not _____ from the hope of the Gospel."
2. So, in order to be presented to God holy and blameless, it is necessary to be steadfast in your Christian faith.

D. Examples of Holiness:

1. Following Christ's Example:

(v.24) - "I rejoice in my _____ for your sake, and in my flesh I do share on behalf of his body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's _____."

- a. Following the example of Christ means that we, like him, will also face hardships as we continue to live for Christ.
- b. Keep in mind the hardship is temporary.

(Heb 12:2) - "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the _____ set before him endured the cross..."

2. Stewardship:

(v.25) - "Of this church I was made a _____ according to the _____ from God bestowed on me..."

- a. A steward is someone who has been entrusted by the owner with discharging a duty. The steward has a commission, a "stewardship" but is not the owner of what he has been entrusted with.
- b. (Ps 24:1) - "The earth is the _____ and all it contains,"
- c. (1 Cor 6:20) - "You have been _____ with a price..."
- d. These passages show God is the owner and you are the steward. All you have, do, and are is to primarily serve his purposes.
- e. Example of stewardship: Paul was a tent maker by trade (Acts 18:3). But this was not his primary calling. His primary calling was serving God in the mission to which God called him (1 Cor 9:16-17). Tent making functioned in his life to support that mission. The mission was primary, and everything else filled a support role for God's purposes.
- f. Consider this illustration of stewardship

*So we say, "I want this pearl. How much is it?"
 "Well," the seller says, "it's very expensive."
 "But how much?" we ask.*

"Well, a very large amount."
 "Do you think I could buy it?"
 "Oh, of course. Everyone can buy it."
 "But didn't you say it was very expensive?"
 "Yes."
 "Well, how much is it?"
 "Everything you have," says the seller.
 We make up our minds. "All right, I'll buy it," we say.
 "Well, what do you have?" he wants to know. "Let's write it down."
 "Well, I have ten thousand dollars in the bank."
 "Good, ten thousand dollars. What else?"
 "That's all. That's all I have."
 "Nothing more?"
 "Well, I have a few dollars here in my pocket."
 "How much?"
 We start digging. "Well, let's see-thirty, forty, sixty, eighty, a hundred, a hundred twenty, a hundred twenty dollars."
 "That's fine. What else do you have?"
 "Well, nothing. That's all."
 "Where do you live?" He's still probing.
 "In my house. Yes, I have a house."
 "The house, too, then." He writes that down.
 "You mean I have to live in my camper?"
 "You have a camper? That too. What else?"
 "I'll have to sleep in my car!"
 "Have you a car?"
 "Two of them."
 "Both become mine, both cars. What else?"
 "Well, you already have my money, my house, my camper, my cars. What more do you want?"
 "Are you alone in this world?"
 "No, I have a wife and two children..."
 "Oh, yes, your wife and children, too. What else?"
 "I have nothing left! I am left alone now."
 Suddenly the seller exclaims, "Oh, I almost forgot! You yourself too! Everything becomes mine - wife, children, house, money, cars - and you too."
 Then he goes on, "How listen - I will allow you to use all these things for the time being. But don't forget that are mine, just as you are. And whenever I need any of them you must give them up because now I am the owner."

g. Reflection:

- 1) Your occupation: _____
- 2) Your address: _____
- 3) Your bank: _____
- 4) Date of your Salvation: _____
- 5) Your Church: _____

6) Your Town: _____

7) Reflection question: How does being "dedicated" to God as a "steward" change your attitude toward these sorts of things?

3. Set Apart for God's Purposes and Mission:

a. (v.26-27) - "...the mystery which has been hidden from past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His _____, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the _____, which is _____ in you, the hope of glory.

1) God makes his will known through his saints, which means he makes his will known through _____.
(insert your name here)

2) When people see "Christ in you," this will lead to more people coming to God and being saved through the Gospel as you were.

b. (v.28-29) - "We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this _____ I labor, striving according to his power, which mightily works within me."

c. Note: God's will and mission is to save the world through the Gospel. You were not whisked away to Heaven after you obeyed the Gospel. You play a role in God's mission as one who has been set apart to be his steward. Discovering how this will take shape in your life is part of the growing process of the Christian life.

4. Holy Thinking and Behavior

a. (Rom 12:1-2) - "...present your bodies a _____ and _____ sacrifice, ... And do no be _____ to this world, but be _____ by the _____ of your mind, ..."

1) What does this mean in regard to your thinking, attitudes, and your mind?

2) What might be some practical ways you can avoid being conformed to this world and be transformed by the renewing of your mind?

b. (I Cor 6:9-11)

1) List the things that are characteristics of unholiness:

2) List what this passage says happened to you when you obeyed the Gospel:

a) But you were _____

b) but you were _____

c) but you were _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus and in the Spirit of our God.

d) What does this mean in regard to your behavior?

c. Determining Holy Behavior - What questions might you ask of any action before you do it?

1) (1 Cor 6:12a) - Is it _____?

2) (1 Cor 6:12b) - Will I be _____ by it?

3) (1 Cor 10:31) - Does it give _____ to God?

III. Reflection: What does it mean for you to be holy and to have a stewardship? How does this affect how you see your life, your relationships, your activities, your job, and your possessions?

<input type="checkbox"/> Monday	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read Col 1:21-29 slowly2. Spend some time in prayer. Write down any reflections or thoughts between you and God here:3. Complete any part of the previous lesson that is incomplete.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read Eph 1:15-21 slowly2. Reflect on what God is revealing he wants for you in this passage.3. Prayer: Share your thoughts with God

<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="235 297 757 329">1. Read 1 Jn 4:1-6<li data-bbox="235 367 757 430">2. Reflect on what God is revealing to you about possible challenges to your faith.<li data-bbox="235 1106 724 1138">3. Prayer: Share your thoughts with God	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="822 297 1116 329">1. Read Heb 5:11 - 6:6<li data-bbox="822 367 1377 430">2. What is God communicating to you in this passage?<li data-bbox="822 1106 953 1138">3. Prayer

<input type="checkbox"/> Friday	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read Col 2:1-15 slowly2. Read over and begin to do the next lesson. Write any reflections you may have here.3. Prayer	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read Col 2:1-23 slowly2. Read over and complete the next lesson. Write any reflections you may have here.3. Prayer