

## **PROGRAM 168 - Your Purpose on Planet Earth**

Plans! Plans! We're always making plans. Some plans work out just fine. Other plans leave us with regrets. Being only human, sometimes we're right, often we're wrong. But there's Someone whose plans always turn out 100% to your benefit. I'm speaking of your Creator—yep, God Himself. He has a specific plan for your life. A purpose with no regrets. Interested? Let's investigate "Your purpose on planet earth"—today's topic on More Than Talk.

### **Page 1 - Discovering a Life with Purpose**

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Genesis 6:8

It would be tempting to view Noah as one of those heroes of "special stature" quite unlike the rest of us. Yet he was just flesh and blood stuff like you and me. Why then did he find grace - special favor - in the eyes of God? Faith's Hall of Fame chapter (Hebrews 11) gives the answer to why Noah found such intimacy with the Lord: "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear..." While those around him laughed at sin and scorned the God of heaven, Noah obeyed every order God gave him. His faith and obedience resulted in his household being saved along with him.

Because of Christ's sacrifice, God's grace is offered to every person on planet earth. With some, His favor is refused and thus counts for nothing. Others find the full benefit of the mystery of God the Father extending His hand of grace as God the Holy Spirit woos and draws the individual and God the Son enters the heart that has welcomed Him by faith - just as Noah did in time past.

All around you are people hoping to find happiness in fortune, romance, adventure, etc. But if you and I set our gaze on things above and find grace in the eyes of the Lord, our lives will count for eternity and, like Noah's loved ones, other lives will be saved because of our obedience.

My prayer: "Thank You, Father, for extending Your grace to me. Let it not be in vain. Work in my heart until You own every crevice and corner. Make me Yours alone."

## **PROGRAM 168 PAGE 2**

### **YOUR PURPOSE ON PLANET EARTH**

#### **PAGE 2 - Seeking God's Agenda**

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33

Some Christians view this promise as a way to accumulate more of the material. That's because some of the voices that preach the health and wealth message use it as a way to squeeze the faithful. But you don't have to be a lover of God to get "things." Human discipline and sacrifice can spell great riches. Most of the world's rich people are not rich in faith toward God. But that's all they have - "things" - and that always ends in futility and emptiness, if not in life, then at death. No Brink's truck or U-Haul trailer ever followed a hearse. And those who would take it with them - like the Pharaohs - have their tombs robbed and their bones pushed aside by others seeking their "things."

Instead, we are challenged to be consumed with only one desire - to "seek for (aim at and strive after) first of all His Kingdom and His righteousness (His= way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides." (Amplified Bible) What Jesus was telling His Jewish hearers was: "You can one day be called a fool or be called faithful. The foolish man has as his top agenda his belly, comforts, and desires, and how he can enlarge his personal kingdom. God's man has his first thoughts on how he can bring others into God's Kingdom and how he himself can taste and live more of God's righteousness. One leaves it all behind; the other sends it all ahead. You make the choice!"

I first saw this verse as a young marine in the Pacific. That's why it was so easy to offer my life for full time missionary service. I sensed God simply telling my simple heart, "You take care of My Kingdom and I'll take care of you." The early disciples learned that Jesus would indeed supply their "3R's" - rag on the back, rice on the table and roof over the head. Perhaps, like me, He is challenging you to step out by faith and offer your life for His service - whether short term or full time. Obey, and you can be sure that when He guides, He provides.

My prayer: "I commit to seeking first Your Kingdom and righteousness, Lord. What will You have me do."

## **PROGRAM 168 PAGE 3**

### **YOUR PURPOSE ON PLANET EARTH**

#### **PAGE 3 - A Single Passion**

“Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee." Genesis 12:1

Many a Christian has felt God's call to missionary service through His call to Abram. And when an obedient "Yes Lord" follows such a call, God always brings His blessings (along with His tests). In Abram's case, the Lord promised a seven-fold blessing (vv 1-3) that would follow Abram's obedience - all of which came to pass including the birth of the Messiah and the gospel being preached to the whole world.

Is God calling you to a new step of faith, whether in the homeland or on a mission field away from familiar kin, surroundings and material comfort? Be assured that it was just as much a test for Abraham as it is for you. Stepping out into the unknown is never easy. But once you know it is God stretching your faith with a fresh challenge - and since He knows every bend in the road as well as the end of the road - you can be confident that "The finger that points the way is attached to the hand that will provide." Rather than merely assume that you're where God wants you and doing what He wants you to do, why not ask Him? As you wait often before Him with an open Bible and an open heart, He will make clear His perfect plan for your life - perhaps even calling you to help reach the lost abroad, whether in short term missions or full time service. Abraham never regretted obeying God's voice once he heard it. Neither will you!

My prayer: "Father, You made me as unique as anyone... including Abraham. Help me to be fired with a single passion - to discover and do Your will. I trust You to make it known."

## **PROGRAM 168 PAGE 4**

### **YOUR PURPOSE ON PLANET EARTH**

#### **PAGE 4 - The Antidote for Worry**

“Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” Matthew 6:34

I don't know about you, but I tend in the natural to be a worry-wart. That alone gives me a greater incentive to live in the supernatural - in His Spirit, not mine - so that my attention will remain on God's wonders, not my worries. Besides, can't we look back at past worries and see that most, if not all, never came to pass? And even if they did, they were not as great as were our fears.

Today's text is not a suggestion. We are commanded by Jesus Himself to take no anxious thought for tomorrow. After all, tomorrow never comes. By the time that it arrives, it is "today" - and we have His promise to supply us with sufficient grace and daily bread to meet our needs. It always helps me to know that my worry is not a weakness but a sin that must be confessed and forsaken, because worry is an accusation against the Father.

The constant companionship of Jesus is the best antidote for worry. Read these words someone wrote concerning our Lord and the disciples: " 'My going is for your good. I will take away my presence but instead you will have my omnipresence. You will discover a new dimension in which I will be closer to you than I am at this moment. Now I am with you but then I will be in you.' And isn't this precisely what happened? At Pentecost He came back - He did change His presence for His omnipresence. He came into the inner recesses of their hearts - burning-ly, blessedly near. They didn't simply remember Christ - they realized Him. They must have said to one another: 'He's gone - yet He is nearer than ever.'"

With such an intimate Lord, let's leave our "tomorrows" in His loving hands and just be faithful today to resist evil by our total surrender to Him.

My prayer: "I know that to worry is to push You off the throne of my heart, Lord Jesus, and to put my own fallen understanding in Your place. That's a horrible sin! Help me not to do it,"

## **PROGRAM 168 PAGE 5**

### **YOUR PURPOSE ON PLANET EARTH**

#### **PAGE 5 Don't Pass By on the Other Side**

“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee...” Genesis 12:3

God has given the world two undeniable visible proofs that He is Creator and Ruler of heaven and earth. One obvious proof is the incredible design, order and perfection of creation all around us (Romans 1:20). The other proof, often missed even by Christians, is God's eternal time clock of prophecy - the Jew.

When God called Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to bring forth Israel, His purpose took in the world. God needed a man (Abraham) to give birth to a people (the Jews) to give birth to the Man (Messiah) to give birth to a people (the Church - Jews and Gentiles worldwide who put their trust in Jesus). To God's call to Abraham was added the Lord's "lifetime contract" to the Jews. No forces in hell or on earth would ever blot out the Jewish people. Satan and those who follow him would try to no avail. God would bless those who bless the Jews and Israel and curse those who curse them. He still does! Anti-Semitism is not really hatred of Jews as much as it is hatred of the God of the Jews. That is why every Christian who loves the Lord Jesus (who came as a Jew) should carry a heart of unconditional love for the Jews.

My prayer: "My Father, I know Your Word never changes. You curse nations and individuals who hate Your Jewish people. But You bless those who love, defend and reach out to them. Give me Your love for Israel and the Jews. I want Your blessing."