

Good morning, Meeker Christian Church family. We have had a wonderful journey in this Purpose driven Life study. That journey has included learning that our life on earth is designed by God as a preparation time for life in eternity. In that eternal life we are going to be doing four things we have learned about on earth for ever and ever and ever that God wants us to practice and prepare for while we are here on earth; **first is worship**, to know and love God. The **second is to fellowship**, to learn to accept and love our Christian brothers and sisters. **The third is discipleship**, growing in faith and practice to become like Christ. **The fourth is to serve**, to learn to use our Spiritual gifts and abilities as living witnesses of God. Today we come to the fifth purpose, which is the only one of these five purposes we can **only** do here on earth. **Number five, you are made for a mission.** In John 17:18, Jesus said this — "*In the same way that you gave Me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world.*" Today we talk about our mission to unbelievers. In John 20:21, Jesus said, "*As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.*" What are we being sent to do? What is our mission? What is our ultimate purpose in life? Paul is real specific in his answer. He tell us in Acts 20:24 CEV *But I don't care what happens to me, as long as I finish the work the Lord Jesus gave me to do. And this work is to tell the good news about God's gift of undeserved grace.* or another translation says: "*the most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work the Lord Jesus gave me to tell people the good news about God's grace.*"

Our **fifth purpose missions** is to **share the Good News**. Once we know that God is in control, once we know that God made each of us to love, once we know that our lives are not an accident, – that our lives have a purpose, then God expects us to share that with other people. That is called "evangelism." Evangelism is from the Greek word for "good news." Where are we supposed to share this good news? Acts 1:8, "*You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" When Jesus told that to His followers, they were in Jerusalem. He said first, I want you to start at home. I want you to start with the people closest to you right where you live. Next, I want you to go to Judea and Samaria, that's like the county and country next door. Samaritans happen to be different culturally and racially different. So God said, "I want you to go to people nearby, even if they are different from you." Then He says, "I want you to go to the ends of the earth. I want you to go reach everybody else."

What God birthed us for, and what God wants us to do is to be a witness. A witness is somebody who tells what they have seen and what has happened to them, their unique and personal experiences. Nobody can be a better witness of what God has done in your life than you. So God says, "I just want you to tell other people what's happened to you, what's happened in your life." Why did HE say that? God is building a family of people who love and trust Him. He is building a family who are going to spend eternity with Him. And that is the whole point of history! One day all believers are going to be gathered together in heaven. That is not Mission Impossible. That is Mission Inevitable. It is going to happen! And it has been God's plan all

along. So how do you become a history maker? By sharing with those in our world. Luke 8:38-39 ESV *The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you."* And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

Jesus intends for us to do the same. He wants us to go to our friends, our family, our co-workers. A reason we are so reticent is that we have believed the satan inspired myth that people are not interested. Look at the Living Bible translation of Romans 1:20 *Since earliest times men have seen the earth and sky and all God made, and have known of his existence and great eternal power. So they will have no excuse when they stand before God at Judgment Day.*

Some of our fellow citizens on earth are confused, fearful, confounded, perplexed and seek answers to comfort the torment of their minds regarding the world, our nation and some sense of purpose or direction of their lives! Drugs and endless technological glorified perversions are the tools the devil and demons use to perpetuate the unbelief and mass confusion.

**Why in the world should I take the time to witness to somebody else? It is the God granted reason that your heart is still beating! To share the good news of salvation with others.**

A tool that satan uses to keep us from witnessing is that he has blocked the idea in our minds to realize every moment of every day is a gift of God. Everything that happens in life is used for God's purposes so we have something to use in our witness to others. Put on Christ daily, hourly, every second and minute. Always be aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit to equip and prepare you to have something to witness about!!

Have you ever thought about why God doesn't just take us to heaven the moment we became a believer? Why does God leave us here on earth? After all heaven is perfect, and here there are problems and trials, sin and temptation and all kinds of stuff. Why doesn't God, the moment I say, "Yep, I'm on your team," instantly take us to heaven??? The answer is because there are two things you cannot do in heaven. **One** of them is sin because there will be no possibility of sin in heaven, the **other thing we can't do in heaven** is to tell people who don't know the Good News about God's love because there will be nobody in heaven who hasn't already heard and received the good news of salvation!

If somebody hadn't shared the good news of Jesus Christ with you, you'd be lost with no hope and headed for an eternity of torment. So God gives us life after our confession of faith to pass on the good news of Jesus. 2 Peter 3:9, *"God doesn't want anyone to be lost, but He wants all people to change their hearts and lives!"* God is not willing that any should perish. And as long as there's one person on earth who doesn't know the Good News, God says we've got to keep reaching out trying to defeat the devils powerful strategy of counterfeiting, lying and confusing.

If we truly want God's legacy and God's blessing in our lives, we must care about what God cares about most. And what God cares about more than anything else is people. John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* If you don't have that verse already memorized

look it up in your favorite Bible version, copy it down and memorize it this week.

“You were made for a mission” is this fifth purpose of life. We are to share with those in our world. It is not enough to just care about the people who are around you. Love demands I move beyond my comfort zone to people with different background, different education, different language, different economics. That is one reason I encourage people to consider their next vacations to visit some mission someplace to share your witness for Jesus.

The Bible says this in 1 Corinthians 9:22 *To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all all possible means I might save some.* Or in the Message version 1 Corinthians 9:22-23 *Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!*

Whatever each person is like, we are to try and find common ground with them so that they will let me tell them about Jesus. Christians are called to build bridges, not walls. And repeatedly in the Bible, we are told to reach out. Over and over again God says it in one word: "Go." I want you to go. You can't spell "God" without "go." You can't spell "Good News" without "go." You can't spell "gospel" without "go." We are to go and share the news of salvation!

Galatians 6:1-3 msg *Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived.*

What is Christ's law? Love your neighbor as yourself. Our actions are proved by our love. James 1:27 *Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

One day we're going to stand before God and He's going to do an audit of our lives. He's going to judge if we really learned to love. The Bible says one day Jesus is going to separate people into two groups: sheep and goats. And He's going to say to one group, Matthew 25:35-36 *"I was hungry, and you fed Me. I was thirsty and you gave Me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited Me into your home. I was naked, and you gave Me clothing. I was sick and you cared for Me. I was in prison and you visited Me."* Now make note of verse 37 Matthew 25:37 people are going to say, *"When did we do that for you, Lord?"* And He says, *"When you have done it to one of the least of my brothers or sisters, you've done it to Me."*

Most of you have already discovered that getting involved in your personal mission calling in the world is going to cost you. It is going to break you out of self-centeredness and comfortable things, and it is going to cost you time and energy and effort and money and maybe even your

privacy sometimes; it may cost imprisonment and even martyrdom, but God has promised eternal rewards. Mark 10:29-31 (TLB) *And Jesus replied, "Let me assure you that no one has ever given up anything—home, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or property—for love of me and to tell others the Good News, 30 who won't be given back, a hundred times over, homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and land—with persecutions!*

Mark 8:35 *For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.*

That is our earthly mission. **Fulfilling our mission is the secret of a fulfilled life.**

Is anybody going to be in heaven because of you? When you get to heaven, is anybody going to say thank you, thank you for telling me the Good News? You knew it and you didn't keep it a secret. You passed it on.

Acts 13:36 niv *For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed..*

"*David served God's purposes in his own time.*" That's my prayer for you. that you will serve God's purpose in your generation, during your lifetime on earth. ///Here's the test to know if you have completed your mission or not. Are you still alive?/// If you are still alive, your mission is not completed.

We each have four possible responses in our mission call from God: You can say like Moses, "Who me?" Or you can say like Jonah, "Not me." Or you can say like Habakkuk, "Why me?" Or you can say it like Isaiah, "Send me."

As we conclude our Purpose drive life study series, may the prayer on each of our lips be something like this: "Heavenly Father, more than anything else, I want to fulfill the purpose of life you created me for. So today, I accept this fifth purpose, my mission to tell others. I want you to use me any time, any way, any place. I want to bring others to you. I want to serve your purpose in my generation. And I want to be a part of what you're doing in the world. From this day forward, I want to build my life around Your eternal purpose, and I want to help our church do the same. Help me to reach one more for Jesus. In Jesus name I pray. Amen."

John 17:18

John 20:21

Acts 20:24

Acts 1:8

Luke 8:38-39

Romans 1:20

2 Peter 3:9

5

John 3:16

1 Corinthians 9:22

1 Corinthians 9:22-23

Galatians 6:1-3

James 1:27

Matthew 25:35-36

Matthew 25:37

Mark 10:29-31

Mark 8:35

Acts 13:36