

God's Plan

Ephesians 1:11-12 (The Message)

¹¹⁻¹²It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

a. Purpose

We were created for a divine _____ .

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them ESV

With God in your world, you aren't an accident or an incident, you are a gift to the world, a divine work of art, signed by God

b. Call

This calling we have received is the call to serve. Serving God and serving others.

Luke 22:25-27

²⁵ Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men order their people around, and yet they are called 'friends of the people.' ²⁶ But among you, those who are the greatest should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. ²⁷ Normally the master sits at the table and is served by his servants. But not here! For I am your servant.

c. Destiny

God's plans and purposes or we could say, His destiny for our lives is not a hidden mystery to discover. It is revealed in us through living a life of serving

Not only were we created for good works; through our service we discover the true _____ of heaven.

Matthew 20:28

"For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many."

Jesus said: "Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:"

Philippians 2:3-4

Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.

Discovering the God First Life

Session 6

d. Will

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Whatever we do, it is because Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for everyone; we also believe that we have all died to the old life we used to live. ¹⁵He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

¹⁴ Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. ¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Finding Our Place

Our place is not really about a location or position, but about living a life that put's God first, allowing Jesus' mission to become our mission.

When we focus on the right things we find ourselves in the middle of what God has for our lives.

a. The cause of Christ

Mark 16:15

¹⁵He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

b. A Heart to serve

Matthew 22:37-40 (New Living Translation)

³⁷ Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'^a ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. Loving God and others.

When we allow our lives to be filled with the power of what we call the great commandment, we find our heart filled with a desire to serve. Loving God and others.

Living the God 1st Life

Matthew 6:31-33

"So don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing. ³²Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, ³³and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

- God, our Father, is obviously NOT against us having things; He's against things having us.

**"...Live for him and make the Kingdom of God
your primary concern."**

Our jobs – our careers – are important, but it is never to be our primary concern. Our friends are extremely valuable, but never are they to be #1

- When we have decisions before us, first check out what the Bible has to say... and place God first
- When we balance our check book, place God first
- When we find ourselves in difficult or strained relationships, place God first by choosing forgiveness, love, mercy, kindness...

Living a life that puts God first is really about priorities, especially in regards to these 3 critical aspects of our lives

Time

Talent

Treasure

Psalm 16:5 (Message)

My choice is you, God, first and only.