### The True "Power of Purpose"

There is a true power of purpose at work in the universe today. It is not the purpose of "purpose driven" men, the purpose of a pragmatic program, the purpose of some impersonal force, or the purpose of "life" ... it is God's purpose.

Who is God? God is the great Three In One, YAHWEH, the I AM, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God is One "What" and three "Whos" with each "Who" possessing all the attributes of Deity and personality. For instance, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, as the One Triune God, each created the universe: God ("What") created the universe (Gen. 1:1); the Father ("Who") created the universe (Mal. 2:10, Mt. 25:34); the Son ("Who") created the universe (Col. 1:15-16, Heb. 1:2, Mt. 13:35); and the Spirit ("Who") created the universe (Ps. 104:30, Job 33:4, Jn. 6:63).

The Father is the One who sent His One and only Son, Jesus Christ, the Almighty God, to reconcile those who would believe (Col. 1:20) that the everlasting God came in the flesh (Jn. 1:14). Jesus Christ added human nature to His divine nature thus becoming forever the Godman. He died to pay the penalty of sin for all those who believe on His name (Jn. 20:31), admit they are sinners (Rom. 10:9), commit to a lasting belief in Who He is (2 Tim. 1:12), and submit to His commands (1 Jn. 2:3). Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, and today we have a written "word and testimony" (Is. 8:20) called the Bible, the only eternal Truth (Jn. 17:17). When people come to a belief in the facts of the Gospel message, they are given the Spirit of Truth (Jn. 16:13), the Third Person of the Triune God (Matt. 3:16-17, 28:19, 1 Jn. 5:7-9) as their Counselor (Jn. 14:26), Who then works through the new self (Col. 3:10) He creates in them so they are able to distinguish between good and evil (Heb. 5:14). Men are incapable of coming to the Truth without the Spirit of Truth (Jn. 14:17).

Why mention all this? Isn't this just a bunch of Christian jargon and theological rhetoric? The reason this background history needs to be reviewed is because there is a complete lack of understanding about what the purpose of man is today. What is the meaning of life? Is it the fulfillment of human potential? Is it the discovery of the purpose of mankind as a whole? No. The meaning and purpose of life is to please Jesus Christ!

Notice how God's Word frames the subject of "purpose". Notice Who's purpose really matters.

Isaiah 46:10 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: **My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.** 

Isaiah 55:11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, **but** will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

God is the One with purpose. Any purpose we have is only fulfilled if we serve His purposes. What are we to believe then, according to God?

# John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

# Acts 4:12 **Salvation is found in no one else**, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved

Here we have the criteria of true purpose. God's purpose for mankind is to save them by grace alone (Titus 3:5-7, Rom. 11:6) through faith alone (Rom. 3:28, 4:4-5) in Jesus Christ alone (Jn. 14:6, Acts 14:12), thereby giving them His life (2 Cor. 4:11) and purpose (Phil. 2:13). There is no other shortcut to earthly purpose or eternal life. God's ways are not our ways.

# Isaiah 55:9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

We must conclude, then, that our will must be subject to His will in order for our life to have purpose. Without God's purpose through Jesus Christ alone, life has no purpose other than rebellion against God and, ultimately, judgment and destruction. God told us in His Word that we are to obey His commands. By doing so we find our purpose, which is to have a relationship with the great I AM, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### John 14:15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

# John 14:23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Since God created and sustains the universe, and saves those who believe that Jesus Christ came in the flesh, the purpose of life is His alone. We only find our purpose as we meet His criteria. What must we do, then, to have purpose in life? We must first be saved.

We must **ADMIT** we are sinners and then confess and repent of our sin before Jesus Christ. If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 Jn. 1:9). The first part of this verse is cut out of the modern gospel message in favor of the last part, yet we must admit we are sinners!

Then we must **COMMIT** to the Lord Jesus Christ. The word "believe" (*pisteuo* in Greek) can also be translated "commit" and I think it should have been. Belief is more than just a mental assent to some facts. It is a commitment to believe those facts and continue in that truth which will evidence itself in the fruit of the Spirit and sound doctrine. Salvation is not just a one-time experience. It is not just a belief that Jesus Christ was a good man. It is a lifelong commitment to believe the facts of the Gospel as presented in the Bible.

Finally, we must **SUBMIT**. This means we must obey the Lord. John tells us over and over again, very straightforwardly, that those who love the Lord demonstrate that fact by obedience. Those who do not love the Lord are disobedient. We must yield to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Let's examine the words "admit", "commit" and "submit" and see what they mean, by both definition and synonym.

#### ADMIT

# Acts 19:18 Many of those who had professed their faith began openly to admit their former practices. (Phil)

Back in the days of the early church people would admit to their former sins before others so that people would know there was a change in their lives and could see the results of their faith. (1 Jn. 1:8-9 *Phillips*) Admission of sin is part of the Gospel. Jesus Christ forgives on the basis of our admission of sin. (Rom. 10:9 *Phillips*) We must admit that Jesus Christ is Lord. Admitting and believing go hand in hand. (2 Jn. 1:7 *Phillips*) Those who do not admit Jesus Christ is Lord, that God became a man, are not saved.

#### Acknowledge

Another word for "admit" is "acknowledge". (Jer. 3:13 *KJV*) First of all, sin must be acknowledged. (Luke 12:8 *NIV*) Second, we must acknowledge Jesus Christ before men. This is our testimony of what we believe about the Son of Man. (2 Jn. 1:7 *NIV*) Those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as God are not saved. They have no purpose in life and, in fact, have the spirit of antichrist (1 Jn. 4:3 *NIV*).

#### Recognize

# 1 John 4:2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, (NIV)

Those who are saved recognize the Spirit of God--that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. (John 1:10 *NIV*, 16:3 *Weymouth*) Those who are not saved do not recognize Jesus Christ as the Lord.

### Confess

# *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (KJV)*

Confession of sin is a prerequisite to salvation. We cannot save ourselves and there is no sacrifice other than Jesus Christ, but we must admit (confess) that we are sinners and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved. (Rom. 10:9 *NIV*, 1 Jn. 4:15 *ASV*) We must confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to be saved.

#### Repent

# Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord; (ASV)

Mark 1:15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. **Repent and believe** *the good news!"* (NIV)

Repentance is not just being sorry for sin but turning away from sin. We must turn away from sin and turn toward Christ. This is necessary for salvation. All men must repent to be saved.

### **Receive - Synonym of "Admit"**

When we repent and believe we also receive. (Jn. 1:12, Rom. 5:17 *ASV*) Those who repent, believe and receive become children of God. (Jn. 14:17 *ASV*) Those who do not receive Christ cannot know Christ.

### Allow

Acts 24:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. (KJV)

We must hope in God, believe in the hope of the resurrection. (Col. 1:23 *Phillips*) We must also not allow ourselves to be shifted away from the hope of the Gospel and of our faith. We are reconciled on the basis of the fact that we maintain a firm position in faith. This leads us naturally to the next topic.

### COMMIT

The most important thing for us is to believe that Jesus Christ is God come in human flesh and that He died to save us. He then rose again to purchase eternal life for those who believe in Him. The word "believe" in Greek also means to "commit". The word "believe" in English tends to be associated with mental assent. The sense of a lifetime commitment to believe is not present in the word "believe" in our modern English. Our salvation, from God's omniscient viewpoint, comes the moment we believe. Our salvation, from our human finite viewpoint, comes when we commit to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and do not wander away from that truth or place our faith in another "Jesus", another gospel, and another spirit. Belief is not just a one-time event but is a continuing commitment to faith. (2 Tim. 1:12 *ASV*, Rom. 6:17 *RSV*) Our belief in Jesus Christ is a commitment. When we commit to belief in the Lord He has promised us He will guard that commitment. (Jude 1:3 *Phillips*) We must also fight for the faith that has been handed down to us who are committed to God.

#### Believe

Acts 16:31 And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved,** thou and thy house. (ASV)

Romans 10:10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (NIV)

Belief is an absolute necessity in order to appropriate the grace of Jesus Christ afforded through the cross for salvation. A person cannot be saved without believing for himself or herself that Jesus Christ is Lord, and there is no salvation in any other name. We must believe

that He is Who He claims to be. (Heb. 10:39 *NIV*, Luke 8:12 *Phillips*) If we do not believe, we cannot be saved, no matter what the Calvinists tell you. Jesus Christ did His part. His Holy Spirit opens our eyes and convicts us of sin. We must believe, and continue to believe.

### Receive - Also a synonym of "Commit"

Romans 5:11 and not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. (ASV)

We must believe and receive the free gift of salvation. The word "receive" is a synonym of the word "commit". Belief then consists of commitment, receiving the gift, trusting the Lord Jesus Christ with our lives and future, and then holding on to that faith till the end. The Holy Spirit helps us to persevere, but we must submit to Him because we still have free will to wander away, shipwreck our faith, and be destroyed.

#### Trust

Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.'" (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 1:9 yea, we ourselves have had the sentence of death within ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raiseth the dead: (ASV)

Those who put their trust in Jesus Christ for salvation will become children of God. We trust God because He is faithful to His promise to save us and deliver us.

### Hold

We must commit, believe and trust God unto salvation, but we must hold on to that faith. Otherwise our faith is no faith at all. (Heb. 10:23 *KJV*, Heb. 4:14 N*IV*) We must not deny the Faith, but hold firmly to it. Otherwise we can shipwreck our faith. (1 Tim. 1:19 *NIV*) Our only way to eternal life is by grace through faith, which we hold on to till the end. We make a confession of faith when we first believe, but we must also fight the good fight of faith to take hold of eternal life. (1 Tim. 6:12 *ASV*)

### Keep

The Bible uses a number of other synonyms meaning we should commit to the Lord Jesus Christ and hold on to that faith. (Rev. 14:12 *ASV*, 1 Tim. 3:9 *NIV*)

### Persevere

We are also told to persevere in our faith.

*1 Timothy 4:16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.* (*NIV*)

Salvation comes through a persevering faith, not a one-time decision that is not lived out and held on to. The Bible talks about persevering in faith to be saved, but also to persevere to gain our full reward. Let's be sure we are not teaching the one concept to the exclusion of the other. (Heb. 10:36 *NIV*)

#### Overcome

Finally, we overcome by faith. True believers are overcomers. Those born of God will overcome, but only God ultimately knows who is born of Him. We must continue in the faith till the end. Through the Holy Spirit we will overcome. (1 John 5:4-5 *NIV*)

### **SUBMIT**

The final step is a step that is hardly being covered at all today in churches. Many "Christians" are left as babies needing milk instead of moving on to meat and maturity. Baby trees don't bear fruit. We must bear fruit to be of use in the kingdom of God, or else we will be cut down and thrown into the fire. The last part of the Gospel is submission. Jesus Christ is our prime example of this, and we must follow in his footsteps. We can only do this through the power of the Holy Spirit, but we must submit to the work of the Spirit in our lives. (James 4:7 *KJV*, Heb. 12:9 *NIV*) Submission is here taught as necessary for eternal life!

#### Obey

To submit means to obey. (1 Jn. 2:3, 3:24 *NIV*) Those who love the Lord obey His commands. When we obey him we can ask, seek and knock and the Lord will answer us. (1 Jn. 3:22 *NIV*) There are also consequences for not obeying the Lord. (1 Jn. 2:4 *NIV*) All unrepentant liars are destined for hell. This is God's purpose for those who are rebellious and do not admit, commit and submit to Him. (2 Thes. 1:8 *ASV*) Those who do not obey the Gospel are under the wrath of God.

#### Love Truth, Reject Heresy

Another facet of submission is to love the truth and, correspondingly, reject lies. Heresy is laying lies beside truth. We don't accept heresy, but we reject those who cleverly introduce lies alongside truth. (Titus 1:9 *ASV*) Those who do not hold on to faith and sound doctrine cannot be saved. (2 Thes. 2:10 *Phillips*) As God rejects false teachers and false prophets, we should also. The time has already come when many people who call themselves believers no longer endure sound doctrines but follow false teachers. (2 Tim. 4:3 *ASV*) Those who submit to the Lord in obedience reject heretics. (Titus 3:10 *KJV*)

### Yield

Submission is a yielding of our will to the will of God. (Rom. 6:13 KJV) Those who yield are alive, not dead. (Rom. 6:16 KJV, 6:19 RSV) Justification and sanctification walk hand in hand. There can be no sanctification without justification in the eternal sense, but there can also be no justification without sanctification in the human sense. Those who are truly regenerate

will be sanctified. We must yield for the sanctification process to proceed. If we do not yield we cannot be sanctified, therefore we are not justified. God knows who are justified. We prove our justification by yielding to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. (James 3:17 *NKJV*)

#### Surrender

Finally submission is surrender. "All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give." (Rom. 6:13 *Weymouth*) Whatever or whoever we surrender ourselves to becomes our master. If we surrender to God, He is our Master. If we surrender to money, the flesh, the world, the devil, God is not our Master. (Rom. 6:16 *Weymouth*)

### CONCLUSION

My contention is that the concepts I have shown from the Bible above are being systematically removed from the Gospel message in Christendom, and because it is no longer being taught in the churches there is little or no witness of it anywhere else in modern society. The Gospel has been removed in favor of a message that appeals to the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. These concepts that are an integral part of the Gospel are being left behind in favor of a "gospel" that has the power to draw large crowds, to appeal to the "felt needs" of humanity, but has been stripped of the power to save.

In the rush to get larger numbers of people to come together in unity to allegedly "save the planet" or build a global interfaith religion, the hard truths of the Gospel are being stripped away. What is left is a message about the love of God without the wrath of God--a message of the mercy of God without the requirements of God. Part of the Gospel message is that we must admit we are sinners and repent of that sin. We must commit to what we believe, and continue to believe, that Jesus Christ is God Who came to die in our place for our sins (1 Pet. 1:24), and Who rose again (1 Thes. 4:14) and is seated at the right hand of the Father (Heb.12:2), meaning that Jesus Christ is King of Kings and has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18). Then we must submit to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We must hold on to our faith amidst the apostasy of the woman (Rev. 17:5) who rides the beast (Rev. 17:7), the coming global government which will give power to the coming Antichrist and the apostate world religion.

Where is the true power of purpose? The answer is in Jesus Christ alone.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to **his purpose**.

2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us to a holy life—**not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace**. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,