

ITS NOT FOR NOTHING

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever asked the question, "what on earth am I here for?" Why am I on this earth?

It's a natural question and if we haven't asked it, maybe we should. The real question would be, "what is my purpose?"

What is "purpose"? **It's defined as the reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists.**

Today I'm here to tell you that "**it's not for nothing**" that you exist. You are not here just because, or by accident. You exist because you have a divine, God-given purpose for being on this earth.

God's ultimate purpose for you is that you spend eternity with Him, worshiping Him and rejoicing in blessings immeasurable. But before we get there, we need to realise that there is work for us to do. We read this:

Ephesians 2:10 (AMPC) For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

God has a plan for our lives – we read about it in Jeremiah 29:11 too. **Our purpose is that which we need to do to reach our goal and complete the Good works God has created for us to do.**

MESSAGE

YOU ARE NOT A MISTAKE!

I watched a movie the other day. In it was a little girl from a foster home. Her words were, "my mom keeps saying I'm a mistake". Many people suffer even in adulthood from the careless words of their parents because of an unexpected pregnancy. No-one born on this earth is a mistake or an accident. It's such a pity that their parents never took notice of what God's word says!

Psalms 139:13-17 (NKJV) For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

Surely if God never intended for us to be here, that substance would never have been formed? Yet before we were formed, accident or not, God had our days written in His book and He had a plan for us!

Speak about Ed Trout and what he said to Che...

Of Jeremiah God says: **Jeremiah 1:5** (NKJV) "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

God had a plan and purpose for each of our lives before the act of intercourse ever took place! No person is an accident or a mistake. God ordained for you to be born! This is also the reason why abortion is such a tragedy!

Have you been struggling with a sense of rejection – seemingly unwanted and wondering why you were ever born? Today it's time to realise, it's not for nothing you have been born. God loves you and He ordained your birth so that you can fulfil His purpose for your life!

EMBRACING OUR PURPOSE

Once we realise that our presence on earth is not an accident or mistake, we need to start to embrace our purpose! What a tragedy if we spend our time here on earth and we don't achieve it!

Jesus warned of the reality of missing our purpose in the parable of the talents which we can find in Matthew 25.

A master put his servants in charge of his goods while he was away on a trip. He gave them 5, 2 and 1 talents respectively. Upon his return, he assessed the stewardship of his servants. He evaluated them according to how faithful each was in making wise investments of his money to make a profit.

From this it becomes clear that the master sought some profit from what he had entrusted to his servants.

A gain indicated faithfulness on the part of the servants. The master rewarded his servants according to how each has handled his stewardship. He judged the two servants who had increased their talents as having been "faithful" and gave them a positive reward. But the single unfaithful servant who "played it safe," lost even that which he was given and was put out of his master's presence.

What about us? Have we taken the gifts, talents and equipping God has given us and produced fruit? Have we pursued our purpose in life?

It's not for nothing that God has given us a purpose, He expects a positive outcome.

SETTING A HIGH EXPECTATION

Augustine, one of the historic church fathers said that it's the beginning of adulthood in our lives when we are willing to ask the question, "What do I wish to be remembered for?"

In the book "Half Time" by Bob Buford, he writes this about what we would want written as our epitaph... i.e. what would we want people to say about us or write on our gravestone once we die?

His desire is for this to appear, "100X".

He refers to the parable of the sower where the seed that fell on the good ground yielded a 30, 60 or 100-fold harvest – His desire is high – a 100X harvest!

Today I ask us all, what do we wish to be remembered for? Will we leave behind a good legacy, having fulfilled God's purpose for our lives? Or will we leave what we started with – nothing?

Have we set a high expectation or a mediocre one?

Someone said that if our dreams are not too big for us to achieve then they are too small for God!

GOD WILL HELP US!

Someone else said, "If God brought you to it, He will bring you through it".

God does not have unrealistic expectations of us, He expects extraordinary things from us, but He is also the giver of the talents and the one who will help us make the most of them!

Psalm 57:2 (AMPC) I will cry to God Most High, Who performs on my behalf and rewards me [Who brings to pass His purposes for me and surely completes them]!

Psalm 138:8 (ESV) The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Because God has a purpose for us, we also have God-given enablement to fulfil that purpose. Today we can ask Him to help us achieve it. When God helps us, we cannot fail!

Have you given up on God's purpose for your life because you felt it's too hard to achieve? It's time to start trusting God.

GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR OUR CHURCH!

We have many promises from God. **He has chosen this church and this property to place His name here for it to be honoured - Nehemiah 1:9** (NLT) But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to **the place I have chosen for my name to be honoured.'**

He has a land for us to claim - Joshua 1:2b (NLT) "... Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites (Christian Heritage), across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them.

He has a people that must be reached in this city - Acts 18:10(NLT) For I am with you, and no one will attack and harm you, for many people in this city belong to me."

These are just 3 out of several. Let's look at our vision and mission...

My challenge about Christian Heritage is this...Are we still running with this vision? Have we lost focus and become disinterested? We need to ask God to restore the work in the midst of the years.

CONCLUSION

It's not for nothing that we as Christians, and we as a church exist. God has a purpose for our existence.

- We are not accidents or mistakes.
- We need to embrace our purpose.
- We need to set high expectations.
- We need to realise we are not alone, God is with us and He will help us.

Let these words from Habakkuk 3 be our prayer as we seek to fulfil our God-given purpose:

Habakkuk 3:2b (NKJV) O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years!

Pray specifically for those with a sense of rejection – from unwanted pregnancies.