

## PURPOSE Saved and Called 28.6.2020 AM Sermon Notes

*Each one fearfully and wonderfully made; like Jeremiah, before he was formed, God knew him; who he was and what he would do; before the world began – before time began, Colossians 1:16 says ‘all things were created through Him and for Him’ (Him being Jesus Christ).*

For those who are born again, we are re-created – we saw that borne out in Ephesians 2:8-10: “For by grace you have been **saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for** good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Key verse for today: 2 Timothy 1:9 “<sup>9</sup> **who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,**”

Before time was set in place, God knew each one, formed and fitted together each one for the plans He made. This should give us a strong sense, not of self-importance or self-significance, but of confidence that each one of us is drawing breath for such a time as this; each one of us is designed for right relationship with God; each one of us is designed to reflect the glory of God and how we do that is moment by moment, hour by hour, day by day, one life at a time, walk in what He has called us to be and do. This was never meant to be a mystery. Purpose is not mystical; it’s not meant to be a game of hide and seek – we have heard many times that Father does not hide things from us – “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” <sup>10</sup> **But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2.**

He knew you, He formed you for the plans He drew up for you, He brought you to being at the correct time and He now influences and empowers you to do those things as we are led by the Holy Spirit; Who does not step outside the Word of God. Jesus said ‘when He comes, He will glorify Me’ – this is what the Holy Spirit does in and through each believer – glorifies Jesus Christ.

- **1 Corinthians 10:31** ‘whether you eat or drink, whatever you do, do all for the glory of God’
- **2 Corinthians 5:9** Paul said, ‘whatever we do, we make it our aim to please Him’ One version says ‘we make it our ambition’ to be well-pleasing to Christ Jesus.

Isaiah 66:2b ‘These are the ones I esteem: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and tremble at my word’ (v.2b). ‘But there is something I’m looking for: a person simple and plain, reverently responsive to what I say’ (v.2b, MSG).

We have looked recently at hearing what the Holy Spirit says ‘today’ ... and not hardening our hearts; not going astray in our hearts. So, we come back to our text; the overall purpose of God does not change but each generation have their own generation to serve. **How do we serve our generation in keeping with the purpose of God?** How do we keep ourselves in the circumstances we find ourselves in, in this time in the world?

*Michael Angelo: consider one of the greatest artists of all time: seemed to understand that when the Holy Spirit leads, then we will pray in keeping with the Holy Spirit; our heart will be inspired towards noble deeds and quickened to do them; we will find that path that Father has made known, our thoughts will be inspired by Him and our feet will tread that holy calling and our tongue will be loosed in praise forever.*

**Translated by William Wordsworth / Michael Angelo :** *THE PRAYERS I make will then be sweet indeed, if Thou the spirit give by which I pray: My unassisted heart is barren clay, which of its native self can nothing feed: of good and pious works Thou art the seed, which quickens only where Thou say’st it may; unless Thou show to us Thine own true way, no man can find it: Father! Thou must lead. Do Thou, then, breathe those thoughts into my mind by which such virtue may in me be bred that in Thy holy footsteps I may tread; the fetters of my tongue do Thou unbind, that I may have the power to sing of Thee, and sound Thy praises everlastingly.*

2 Timothy 1:9 Some background: first world-wide generations of Christians. Paul writing to Timothy... he is looking forward to seeing him; he is persuaded Timothy has a genuine faith and Paul exhorts him to stir up the gift of God that is in him, that Timothy received when Paul laid hands on him - as Paul reminds him .... 'God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind' (or self-discipline). It's pretty likely that Timothy needed bolstering – perhaps he buckled a little under some difficulties. Timothy had been pastoring the church in Ephesus for some years – he had travelled with Paul on some journeys and you can hear the love Paul has for him. Paul writes to him as a beloved son; he remembered Timothy's tears on last parting and was imagining the joy he would experience when he would next see Timothy. Paul, himself at the time is in a jail, in the middle of a persecution at the hand of Nero; Paul's death was close at hand, and Timothy knew. Paul knew that Timothy's task would not be easy, and Paul knew Timothy needed to build on the faith he had received; he had already encouraged him to 'fight the good fight' – of faith. Timothy would have been reading a letter from someone who continued in faith right to the last breath. At that time and in that place, if you preached the gospel, you suffered for it. Paul was encouraging Timothy that if he suffered too, to do it in the power of God and then goes on to remind him of the call, **confident that God is able to keep what is committed to Him.**

Read verse 9 in the immediate context:

*<sup>8</sup> Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, <sup>10</sup> but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, <sup>11</sup> to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. <sup>12</sup> For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to **keep** what I have committed to Him until that Day. <sup>13</sup> Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> That good thing, which was committed to you, **keep** by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.'*

Some of Paul's companions had left for various reasons and he updates Timothy on that – but Timothy, but Sun City Christian Centre, **hold fast the pattern of sound words, in faith and love, which are both in Christ Jesus.** If we want to serve our generation according to the purpose of God, there are some things we must hold to; some things we must keep. The Church was facing injections of heresy. You can see what happened to the Church in Ephesus in Revelation. See what was going on clearly in the Book of Jude. Paul, here, too, is reminding Timothy, what we need to **keep**. Timothy, that good thing, which was committed to you, **keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.** Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel (Romans 1:16) **because it is the power of God unto salvation.** Keep that word of truth Timothy; don't lose sight of the power of the Gospel to bring powerful effect to everyday life.

The Gospel – is the **power** of God unto salvation; it is the power of God to master self; it is the power to conquer circumstances; it is the power to live as a Christian when it seems impossible;

The Gospel is good news of **salvation** – God saved us – He rescued us from sin, and He liberated us from the things that cause sin; gives us the ability to break away from things that habitually chained us;

The Gospel is not only rescue from sin and the past, but it is a **calling** to what God has set aside for the future – it is a summons to walk set apart – consecrated – sanctified – to walk in God's purpose which was to break down every barrier between God and man, and man and man; the Gospel is the one thing that can bring families, nations together.

This is verse 9: *<sup>9</sup> who has **saved us and called us** with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, ...'*

**He bid us forth to set us forth.**

**We are loved – unconditionally.** Every soul – for God so loved the world. Love is never the question. We can never be separated from the love of God. Our sin separated us from the presence of God, but never from the love of God. If you never turned to Him, He would still love you, with the same love He loves everyone with. The first thing that happens in salvation, is God bringing you to Himself. When we repented of our ways, of our sin, we turned to God. We received Christ; we believed in the name, the person, of Jesus and He gave us the power to be the children of God. John 1:12. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Romans 1:16. To those who received Him He gave power to be the children of God. John 1:12. Loved is never in question. He never not loves. But He saved us so that we could be at one with Him again. We were created to fellowship with Him; this is how we are wired and this is why when we hear the Gospel that God has made a way for us to be forgiven and be with Him, the Holy Spirit can move on the opening door of our heart. **So, we see He has saved us and called us with a holy calling for His own purpose and grace.**

**He has saved us: delivered us, protected us, healed us, made us to do well, made us whole – He has preserved us. He has called us: called us out, called us forth, ordered, given us command; He has bid us forth. To set us forth. This holy calling – needs more consideration.** The word holy – means ‘pure’ – unmixed – it is a sacred invitation to walk with God in a manner that is worthy of the gospel (we are not wired to serve two masters). We are spiritual people with spiritual purpose and must walk that way, over and above natural responses, led by the Holy Spirit.

This holy calling is according to His purpose and grace. It is according to what God has set forth; what He has resolved needs to happen combined with the empowerment to carry it out. As believers, the bulk of what we do is the same but with different people. We are all commanded to love God and love others. We are all commissioned to preach the gospel, make disciples. We are all called to prayer, to worship, to serve, to give, to fellowship, to minister, to work, to care for the needy. We are all exhorted to hold to the truth of the Word, to speak life and blessing, to do justice, to show mercy and to walk humbly with our God. These are the things that identify spiritual purpose; a holy calling because our lives are set apart to glorify God, to show the world that He is real, and He cares – for day to day and the eternal. We walk in God’s idea of greatness when we love God (fulfilling the first and great commandment) and when we love people (fulfilling the great commission).

**According to His purpose and grace ...** not according to our works... be careful – we can do personality tests; we can do spiritual gift surveys; we can consider what our abilities and talents are; we can go with our happy spot; we can go with our own understanding but all these do not necessarily equate with ‘calling’ – they are resources not Director. God needs us for various things at various times. Being able to do something does not necessarily mean called; and not being able to do something is not necessarily disqualification. Moses: lead a nation: ‘I can’t speak’; Jeremiah is to prophesy to the nation: ‘I’m too young’; Esther: her silence may have further jeopardised a nation - her obedience overriding her fear saved a nation; David could slay lions and bears but he needed to serve cheese first. God is looking for plain, simple people who reverently respond to His voice.

**We must capture that God esteems those who are reverently responsive to what He says.** Day to today, God is fulfilling His purpose for us, in and through us as we go about our lives, loving Him; seeking first His kingdom – intentionally in every decision, every communication, every conversation, every business dealing, every action, every document, every policy, every procedure.... 1 John 5 says His commandments are not burdensome. To trust that He is fulfilling His purpose through us is more faithful than to ponder or question what ‘my purpose’ might be. Be assured, if God wants more from you all He needs is for you to hear His voice. If God wants less from you, all He needs is for you to hear His voice. ‘Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but God’s purpose prevails.’ Proverbs 19:21.

We want the purpose of God prevailing; He so loved the world. His strongest desire is that not one would be lost. A holy calling is a life that is walked in a manner that is worthy of the gospel. What is the ultimate thing that will bring the return of Jesus, that great day? These birth pangs we see, or the Gospel of the Kingdom to the ends of the earth. Prayer: that God’s purpose would prevail. Proverbs 19:21