

# God's Magnificent Purpose For You

By

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One moment we are listening to the commercials that exalt the latest technology in communication or transportation to make life comfortable, and a few seconds later on the same TV screen we are seeing bombs bursting over Afghanistan, or tanks belching destruction in Bethlehem. Violence not seen on the evening news makes up much of the rest of TV programming.

This is only one of the many signs of madness that seems to have the world in its grip. One wonders if the movers and shakers behind all of this madness, in a moment of quiet reflection, ever ask the question: What is the meaning of all this, and what is the purpose of life on this planet?

The answer to that question will be found only in the Bible, and perhaps that is why so few to dare ask. "In the beginning God created." These words of scripture tell us that the entire creation, including humanity, was first framed in the mind of the Maker, and then brought into existence according to His inexorable purpose. Consider the creative intent as stated in Genesis: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth" (Gen. 1:26). This statement encompasses God's magnificent purpose for all mankind for all time.

God, the designer and creator of all, stated exactly what His intention was in creating. Man is to be Godly, even "in His image," with Godly characteristics, in harmony with God, and carrying out the intended purpose of God in relation to the rest of the creation. Since God is an intelligent being, man is also created with intelligence, so that there might be an intelligent relationship between the two, a mind-to-mind relationship between Creator and created.

In a nation such as ours, with highly educated people in all walks of life, you would think that this grand purpose would be the focus of attention that it would be mentioned often in the media and that it would be the theme of drama and art. Instead, these endeavors are saturated with illicit sex and violence.

When one turns to the church, supposedly "the pillar and ground of the truth," he might expect God's grand purpose to be its dominant theme: But not so. The great church organizations may represent an affluent society, good management and skillful oratory, but seldom will they say anything about the original and unchanging purpose of the Creator. Their variety of programs and extravagant productions, while attracting great audiences, hardly give a hint as to the mind of God and what He is ultimately after.

Consider this creature, walking along with his Creator, in perfect harmony with Him. Originally there was no desire on man's part to distort the image and altar the design, thus there was a perfect working relationship. On the part of God it was a relationship of love and provision; on man's part it was responding love and exception. As long as man continued to walk in faith and obedience to God, he received all that the Creator intended: life in a perfect environment. It was not until man turned his trusting mind from God to Satan and tried to attain his goal in opposition to God's desire that the system was ruined.

Once he had rejected the "image," the entire operation was spoiled. Man was no longer in harmony with the Designer. He was no longer fit to have dominion. Moreover, he lost his deathless quality, and the whole earth began to produce things contrary to his desire. (Gen. 3:17-19)

The process has been going on so long now that we take it for granted that it is natural: natural for man to sin; natural for the ground to produce thorns; natural for droughts, famines and floods; and natural to die. None of these are a "natural" part of God's original plan, but are contrary to His ultimate purpose. They exist because man rejected God's purpose and by his own God-given power of will abdicated his kingly position in God's magnificent purpose.

The results of this rejection is being worked out in the chaos of human tragedy, wars, terrorism, tyranny, slavery, mental illness, drug addiction, violence, and immorality.

But God's purpose still exists and will be accomplished. In infinite mercy He sent Jesus to make atonement for our sins and restore our relationship with our Maker. He still desires to have man in His own image, and the Bible teaches that the day will come when Paradise will be restored where there will be no thorns to infest the ground, no sorrow, no sickness nor death, and where man and God will dwell together in a mind-to-mind relationship. Christians will become like Christ (1 John. 3:2), transformed into his own image (Phil. 3:20-21), and shall live in the new earth where righteousness is fully restored. (2 Pet. 3:13, Rev. 21:14, 22:1-5)

Hence our hope is not a vague mystery, but a definite expectation of the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose, "that the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the liberty of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now. And not only so but ourselves also, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for our adoption, Even now we are being age from glory to glory..." (2 Cor. 3:18). The process begins when we retrace Adam's steps backwards, turn our minds and trust to God, and become real Christians. The transformation takes place gradually and daily as we hold his image and purpose before us.

This sublime purpose is often obscured by the immediate problems. As when one sets out to climb a mountain peak, he sees the peak from a distance and prepares for a long and difficult climb, but after a few hundred yards the goal is blotted from view by the trees,

and immediately before him is a stream to be crossed and a cliff to be scaled. Yet, in his mind's eye he sees the towering peak, and visualizes himself standing there, the stream and cliff having been conquered. While he must give attention to the creek and cliff in their turn, neither of these becomes a goal nor an end in itself. The purpose of crossing the stream is only that he might continue the ascent to the peak.

Were he merely taking a stroll through the woods and came upon a stream, the stream might become his sole concern. Should it prove to be difficult or dangerous, he might turn around and go some other direction. This is exactly what has happened to millions of people in the churches. They only stroll through life, with no ultimate purpose. The immediate challenge often becomes the end goal: the church building, the recreation program, the attendance record, the retreats, the fellowship, and so on. If and when the church should suggest repentance and sacrifice and real steps toward the image, entailing self-denial and persecution, members may take a walk in another section of the woods.

But if the Christian has the purpose of God in mind, he finds a way across the stream; he scales the cliff despite the difficulty and danger, His purpose transcends the immediate hardships. "For our light affliction, which is for the moment, works for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor. 4:17).

Through the media, the schools and even the apostate churches, the excuse for changing God's agenda is that "times have changed." Of course, times do change. But Yahweh doesn't change. His purpose is unchanging. He will have man in His own Image! Those who today are rejecting that purpose are doing nothing new. Adam did it, and men have been trying it ever since, to their own destruction.

Only the creator can make man immortal and eternal, and He will do this only for those who desire the life that He desires to give.

Perhaps one of the greatest difficulties of a Christian these days is to resist the temptation to go along with the times. As even greater and more drastic changes take place in society, with greater lawlessness, with violence and sexual immorality becoming a way of life, and personal freedoms being surrendered daily in the name of security, Christians need to remember intensely that our God is One Who "changes not" and that if we want to be salvaged from the destruction of this world, we must align ourselves with His magnificent and unchanging purpose.

"The world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides for ever" (1 John.2:17).

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