

Last week we talked about how the Grace of God works powerfully and practically in our lives. This week, Paul builds on that truth by saying this in **Ephesians 2:10**: *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

It's important for us to have a proper biblical understanding of who we are in Christ and the spiritual nature of our placement here on earth. We need to see our lives within the context of the eternal plan and purpose of the Father.

We see a snapshot of this in **Acts 13:36** *For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay;*

We see that God has a specific purpose for us. If we think temporally, we can miss the eternal perspective of our journey. If we don't "zoom out" to more of His perspective, we can get unnecessarily distracted and derailed by situations and circumstances around us.

Let's look at some verses that lay the foundation for us to understand not only the strength and stability of the purpose of God but the personal nature of it as we are integrated into it through Jesus.

**Proverbs 16:1-4** *The plans of the heart belong to man,  
But the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.  
2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight,  
But the Lord weighs the motives.  
3 Commit your works to the Lord  
And your plans will be established.  
4 The Lord has made everything for its own purpose,  
Even the wicked for the day of evil.*

**Job 42:2** *I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.*

**Isaiah 46:8-10** *"Remember this, and be assured;  
Recall it to mind, you transgressors.  
9 "Remember the former things long past,  
For I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is no one like Me,  
10 Declaring the end from the beginning,  
And from ancient times things which have not been done,  
Saying, 'My purpose will be established,  
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'"*

When we understand the eternal nature of His purpose and our place in it, we can walk by faith with courage, boldness, contentment, and confidence.

**Ephesians 1:11** *In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will*

**Philippians 2:12,13** *So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

**Romans 8:28** *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

**HALE PULE QUESTION:**

**As you think about the eternal purpose of God and the rock-solid stability of His purpose and will, describe how living according to that truth can affect your daily life.**

With all the things going on in the world to distract us, frustrate us, and/or derail us from serving His purpose, we need to be very intentional about staying focused on His Kingdom and our role within His Kingdom.

**Colossians 3:2-4** *Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.*

**Romans 12:1,2** *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

**HALE PULE QUESTION:**

**How can you focus more intentionally on the purposes of God in your life? What kinds of things tend to cause you to shift your focus from “things above” to “things below”?**

The Father does not call us into this journey alone. We know that He (The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit) will never leave us nor forsake us. He is ever present. Within His eternal purpose, He has also practically called us to join together with other Jesus Followers as we grow in and walk out His purpose for us.

**Ephesians 3:14-21** *For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*

**HALE PULE QUESTION:**

**What are some practical ways you can become more practically connected with other Jesus Followers to help you grow in your comprehension of all that He is and all that He has for you within His eternal purpose?**

Additional verses to consider that apply to this topic:

**Jeremiah 29:11-13** *For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*

**2 Peter 1:2-11** *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. 5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.*

**Isaiah 43:1-7** *But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel,*

*“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are Mine!  
2 “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
And through the rivers, they will not overflow you.  
When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched,  
Nor will the flame burn you.  
3 “For I am the Lord your God,  
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;  
I have given Egypt as your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in your place.  
4 “Since you are precious in My sight,  
Since you are honored and I love you,  
I will give other men in your place and other peoples in exchange for your life.  
5 “Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
And gather you from the west.  
6 “I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’  
And to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’  
Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth,  
7 Everyone who is called by My name,  
And whom I have created for My glory,  
Whom I have formed, even whom I have made.”*

**Psalm 138:8** *The Lord will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, O Lord, is everlasting; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.*

**Psalm 139:13-16** *For You formed my inward parts;  
You wove me in my mother’s womb.  
14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
Wonderful are Your works,  
And my soul knows it very well.  
15 My frame was not hidden from You,  
When I was made in secret,  
And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;  
16 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;  
And in Your book were all written  
The days that were ordained for me,  
When as yet there was not one of them.*