

"WEEKLY WISDOM"  
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For The Week of 02.22.10

"LIVE YOUR LIFE ON PURPOSE"

2 Tim. 1:8 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,

2 Tim. 1:9 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,

Have you ever thought about how much time, effort, and money is spent on things that either you cannot change, or that have no lasting value? I have been amazed at how much effort, time, and especially money has been spent since 1988 on global warming. Just a few weeks ago 49 of the 50 states all had snow. No matter what you may believe about global warming one thing is for sure, you are not going to stop this planet from eventual destruction. God's Word tells us this and I believe God's Word. I don't think we should be bad stewards over the planet, but I do believe God who is obviously much smarter than man knew how long this earth would last without man's help. Since 1988 we have spent an estimated \$18 billion dollars on global warming research.

The same can be said for each individual living here on earth. How much of our own personal time, effort, and money do we invest in things that will not be eternal? In the year 2005 it is estimated that Americans spent \$200 billion on sports merchandise alone. I bring all this up to simply point out that many people on this earth are living their lives without any real purpose. For us to live life on purpose we must first find out from the very One who created us what our purpose is on this earth. For the Christian who has accepted the love of the Father who paid the price to buy us back from sin our purpose is clear. But how many Christians are fulfilling their God-given purpose? If we are not fulfilling God's purpose life itself will not have any true meaning. Most of all does any believer in Christ really want to get to heaven and then find out how much of their life was wasted because they didn't fulfill what God desired for them?

In our foundation scriptures this week this is what the apostle Paul is addressing with Timothy. He begins in verse 8 by telling Timothy he should not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, which is the heart of the gospel message, in which there is great power released. Many Christians say they desire to see the power of God at work in and through their life but yet the very thing that has great power we are not proclaiming. Romans 1:16 tells us that there is great power in the gospel message of Christ. In verse 9 of 2 Timothy chapter 1 above Paul goes on

to say that through this gospel we have been saved and called with a holy calling. The word holy here means to be set apart.

Once we have received new life in Christ we have been set apart unto God to His purpose and grace which was given to every believer in Christ. This is what the rest of verse 9 above tells us. As Paul states it is not according to our works, but according to God's purpose. God has a purpose for us, and when we find out what that purpose is and begin to put our effort, time, and money into His purpose life takes on a whole new meaning. The life of a soul is the most valuable thing on the planet, yet if Christians really believed that they would be investing a whole lot more into changing lives which are eternal rather than investing so much of our lives in things that will not last. This is one reason why so many are not truly fulfilled in life. Life, as Jesus said is much more than food or clothing.

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Mark 16:17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

Mark 16:18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Mark 16:19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

Take a look at verse 19 above first and let's go back as if we were one of the disciples that Jesus was talking to. He is going up into heaven back to the Father. How important then would His final words to you be? How much significance would you place on those words? What Jesus said in the previous four verses was the very purpose that God now had for those who are saved. Another way to put it is if you want to understand what life really is, then take the very words of the life giver Himself and realize this is what will bring true fulfillment in life. Doing these things is how you can live your life on purpose and know that when all is said and done you fulfilled your God-given purpose. I can tell you that no touchdown, slam dunk, race won, home run hit, home bought, car driven, etc. (you get the point), will ever bring you as great of satisfaction as fulfilling your God-given purpose.

I want to wrap this article up this week by giving you a list of what Jesus said in Mark 16 is our purpose on this earth. Before I do just remember not fulfilling our purpose is like a fish trying to swim out of water, or an eagle never stretching his wings to fly. You were born again with this very purpose for your life.

1. Preach the gospel to every person (v.15).

To do this we need to understand what the true gospel message is. Believe it or not many do not know the true gospel. The reference to every person here simply means you don't stop proclaiming the gospel just because you have told all your family and friends. We are never to stop doing any of these things as long as we are here on the earth.

2. Get people water baptized (v16).

Most believers think this is only to be done by a minister, but anyone who has been born again can water baptize people. You do need to understand how and what to tell the person before doing so. No doubt if you can get them to your church to be water baptized that is one of the best ways so they can do so as a public witness before all, but sometimes you may not have that luxury. Philip after sharing Christ with an Ethiopian in his chariot stopped at the first pool of water they came to.

3. Believers are to cast out demons (v.17).

Many Christians don't even want to think about this, but they simply don't understand their rightful place in Christ. We certainly shouldn't run around thinking everyone has a demon, but this doesn't take away the fact that we should know when and how to deal with demons in people. This is what Jesus' disciples did in their day and guess what, there are people still needing to be delivered today.

4. Believers should be praying for others to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (v.17).

The evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. You shall also receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. The devil does not want the church walking in power and this is why he has done so much to get religious leaders to shy away from this empowerment.

5. Believers should be walking in authority over the works of darkness (v.18).

We should be going about doing God's work not fearful of swine flu, nor any work of darkness, walking in our authority over all the power of the enemy.

6. Believer should be laying hands on the sick (v.18).

Every Christian has the God-given ability to help others who are sick to receive the healing that Jesus provided. If we will share the truth with them about what Christ has done they can receive healing through us laying hands upon them.

If we want to live our life on purpose we should be investing our efforts, time, and money in fulfilling God's work here on earth. You need to get in a church where you can learn about these things and learn how to walk in them. For far too long believers have been deceived in thinking this was not what they were to do but what only five-fold ministers were to do. Not so, this is the very purpose for every believer on the planet. We should be doing so through every avenue possible. At work, on the Internet, and

actually going out for the very purpose of reaching people with the gospel. Live life on purpose, your God-given purpose, and you will find out what true life is all about.