

v5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. v6 But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? v7 You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honour v8 and put everything under his feet? In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. v9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. v10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. v11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. v12 He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." v13 And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." v14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- v15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. v16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. v17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. v18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. Hebrews 2:5-18

Last Sunday we began to look at this passage. I called my message "THE GLORIFICATION OF CHRIST FOR HIS ROLE IN HELPING US RECAPTURE OUR CREATION DESTINY."

When we got into the car, Patricia said that my message last Sunday was much too complex. I agree. I think the problem began with the Title. So, I have simplified the Title, and I think it will make more sense.

I have now called this message:

GIVING GLORY TO CHRIST FOR GIVING MEANING TO LIFE

The Passage basically has three parts:

1. What God originally created us for.
2. What God wants us now to do.
3. What Jesus did to help us achieve the purposes for which we were created

So, Last week we looked why God created us for originally.

1. THE CREATION DESTINY OF HUMANITY.

- 1.1. Humanity was **DESTINED to BE IN THE MIND OF GOD.**
- 1.2. Humanity was **DESTINED to BE IN CONTACT WITH GOD.**
- 1.3. Humanity was **DESTINED to BE ON EARTH.**
- 1.4. Humanity was **DESTINED to HAVE WORTH AND VALUE.**
- 1.5. Humanity was **DESTINED to RULE THE WORLD.**
- 1.6. Humanity was **DESTINED to BE THE RECIPIENTS OF SALVATION.**

While we were created for a grand purpose, we have a sobering reminder at the end of **v8 ... *Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.***

We are not fulfilling the purpose for which we were created, EXCEPT the LAST ONE, **WE HAVE BEEN SAVED**

As those who are saved, WE ARE GIVEN A NEW PURPOSE:

2. THE DESTINY OF REDEEMED HUMANITY.

2.1. Redeemed Humanity is DESTINED to be HOLY.

v11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy.

The Greek word translated "HOLY" is the word "Hagios" and simply means "TO BE SET APART", normally "SET APART TO BE USED FOR GODS PURPOSE". When an item was given to be used for God's purposes, it belonged to God and had a value, not because the item somehow changed its chemical nature to be valuable, it had value, because it belonged to God. ACHAN'S SIN

If you bought a pair of BLUE SUEDE SHOES that belonged to Reuben Ihlenfeldt, they would not be worth much, but if you brought a pair of BLUE SUEDE SHOES that belonged to Elvis Presley, they would be worth a lot more.

If you bought a CAR from the garage down the road it would not have extra value, but if you brought THE SAME KIND OF CAR that belonged to LEWIS HAMILTON or MICHAEL SCHUMACHER it would be worth a lot more.

There is no intrinsic value in the item, the VALUE LIES IN THE OWNER.

2.2. Redeemed Humanity is DESTINED to be ADOPTED.

v11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. v12 He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." v13 And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

One of South Africa's favourite Adverts from the 1990's was one for IBM.

The Advert was a video of two elephants on a journey. The smaller elephant being helped by the Larger Bull Elephant through the difficult landscape. The song being played in the background is a song with the title "He Ain't Heavy, He's my BROTHER."

The road is long
With many a winding turn
That leads us to who knows where
Who knows where
But I'm strong
Strong enough to carry him
He ain't heavy, he's my brother

When you are feeling low, and wonder if Jesus cares for you, REMEMBER HE'S your BROTHER. You have been adopted into God family, You are not alone, YOU BELONG.

2.3. Redeemed Humanity is DESTINED to be FREE FROM THE FEAR OF DEATH.

v14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- v15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

It is not that we may fear the process of dying, but we do not need to fear death any longer.

Two passages of scripture teach this truth,

PSALM 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Proverbs 14:27 *The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.*

The Apostle Paul's teaching regarding the death of death is captured wonderful in **Romans 6:1-10**

v1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? v2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? v3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? v4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

v5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. v6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin - v7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

v8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. v9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. v10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

2.4. Redeemed Humanity is DESTINED to be THE RECIPIENT OF CHRIST GRACE AND MERCY.

v16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. v17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

Friend UNDERSTAND this:

If you are a Christian, CHRIST DIED TO REDEEM YOU

Romans 5:6-11 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. v7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. v8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. v9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! v10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! v11 Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

1 Peter 3:18 *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,*

2.5. Redeemed Humanity is DESTINED to HAVE THE POWER TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION.

*v18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, **he is able to help those who are being tempted.***

One of the great gifts we receive when we become followers of Jesus, is the POWER TO SAY NO TO SIN. Now I know we may not be doing that as often as we should, BUT AT LEAST WE CAN SAY NO!!!

Romans 7:14-25 *We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. v15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. v16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. v17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. v18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.[3] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. v19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. v20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.*

v21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. v22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; v23 but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. v24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? v25 Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!

CONCLUSION

1. What God originally created us for.
2. What God wants us now to do.

GIVING GLORY TO CHRIST FOR GIVING MEANING TO LIFE

3. What Jesus did to help us achieve the purposes for which we were created