

Called To Belong

Romans 1.5-7

A lot of people today are going through life trying to do the best they can. As a matter of fact, they think that is the way things ought to be. After all, everything is up to them. They are in charge of their life. They make the plans, and they do what they have to do to try to accomplish those plans.

I believe that God has a different perspective. It is important that we understand what God's purpose is for us; then, that purpose can be accomplished in our lives. We will walk from a different perspective, seeing our lives in light of God's purposes; and consequently, we will live differently. Rather than do the best we can, we will be able to live a life that matters. To understand this, let's look at several purposes of the Gospel. Our text reveals *one primary purpose and three secondary purposes*.

Our Primary Purpose is to Bring Glory to God

"Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace ..."

*"For from him and through him and to him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen." Romans 11.36*

Ezekiel 36.22-28

What are some practical ways in which we can bring glory to God?

We Can Work Out Our Own Salvation

"Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith."

"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." Philipians 2.12-13

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" Luke 6.46

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." 1 Corinthians 6.19-20

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." 1 Peter 1.18-19

We Can Understand Who We Are in Christ

"Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome who are loved by God..."

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" 1 John 3.1

We Can Decide to Live in Our Position in Christ

"To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away." Isaiah 64.6

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5.21