

Be a *Spiritual* Community (Romans 12:1-2)











DISCERNING GOD'S WILL





"Why am I here?"

"What's my purpose in life?"

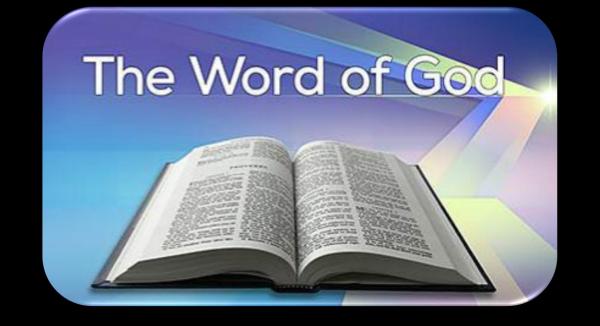
"Why did God make me like I am?"

"What's my specific calling?"

"What should be my goals, ambitions & dreams in life?"

"You won't discover your life's meaning by looking within yourself. You've probably tried that already. You didn't create yourself, so there is no way you can tell yourself what you were created for! If I handed you an invention you had never seen before, you wouldn't know its purpose, and the invention itself wouldn't be able to tell you either. Only the creator or the owner's manual could reveal its purpose."

Rick Warren The Purpose Driven Life: "What on earth am I here for?"



Purpose #:

You Were...

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)

Planned for God's Pleasure

Formed for God's Family

Created to Become Like Christ

Shaped for Serving God

Made for a Mission

Rick Warren (The Purpose Driven Life)





"It's not about you.

- The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness.
- It's far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions.
- If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God.
- You were born by his purpose and for his purpose."

It all starts with God.

(Rick Warren)

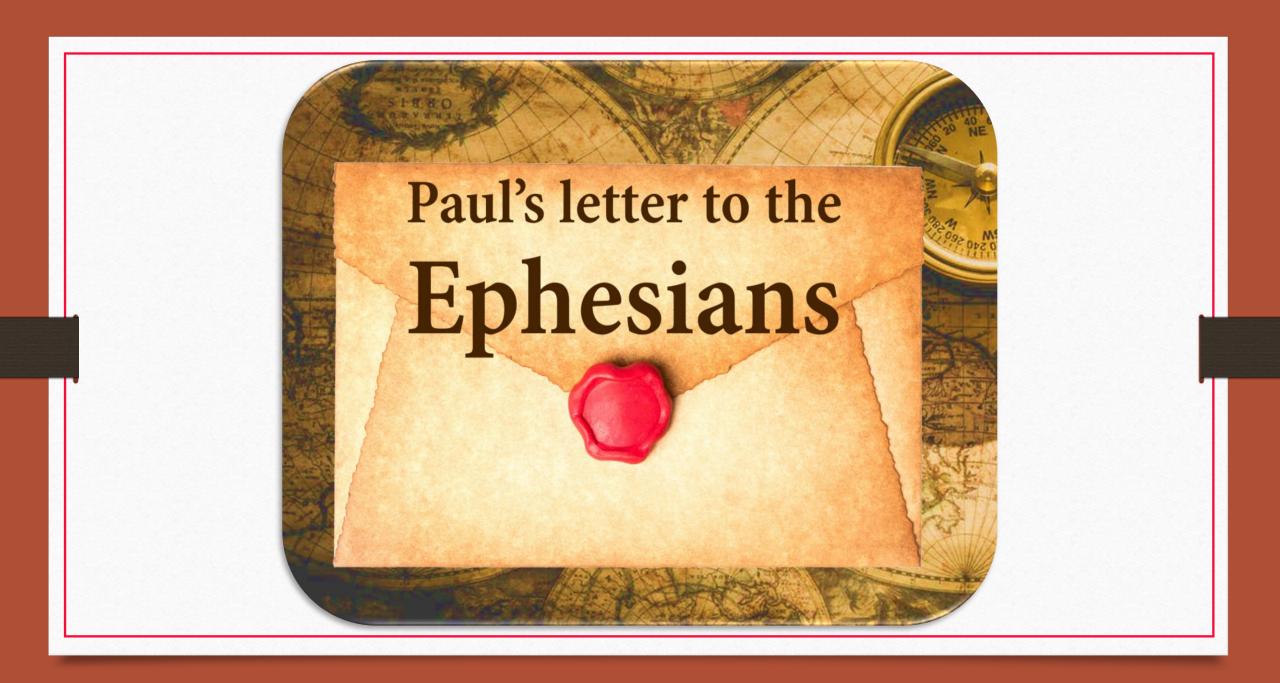


We should focus on God and not ourselves because in Christ we've been...

- (1) Chosen
- (2) Predestined
- (3) Sealed

Ephesians 1

- In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,
- in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.
- And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,
- who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession to the praise of his glory.



We should focus on God and not ourselves because in Christ we've been...

(1) Chosen

Ephesians 1:11a In him we were also chosen

kleroo → "chosen by lot" or "were made heirs"

We are...

"chosen" (elected) & "made heirs" (adopted)

Elected

Mark 13

If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them.

John 15

16a You did not choose me, but I chose you

Romans 8

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

Elected

Romans 9

11b ... in order that God's purpose in election might stand:

Ephesians 1

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world

2 Thessalonians 2

13a God chose you as firstfruits to be saved

In Christ we're chosen (elected) - be humble

John Piper:

Before the creation of the universe God thought of me.

He fixed his gaze on me and chose me for himself.

He did not choose me because I was already in Christ of my own doing, but that I might be in Christ.

He did not choose me because he saw me as a believer, but so that I might become a believer.

He did not choose me because I chose him, but so that I might choose him.

He did not choose me because I was holy or good, but so that I might become holy and good.

Everything I am and all I hope to be is rooted in God's freely choosing me. My faith, my hope, my work are not the ground of electing grace, but only its effect.

And so there is no ground for boasting except in God.

Adopted (made heirs)

Ephesians 1

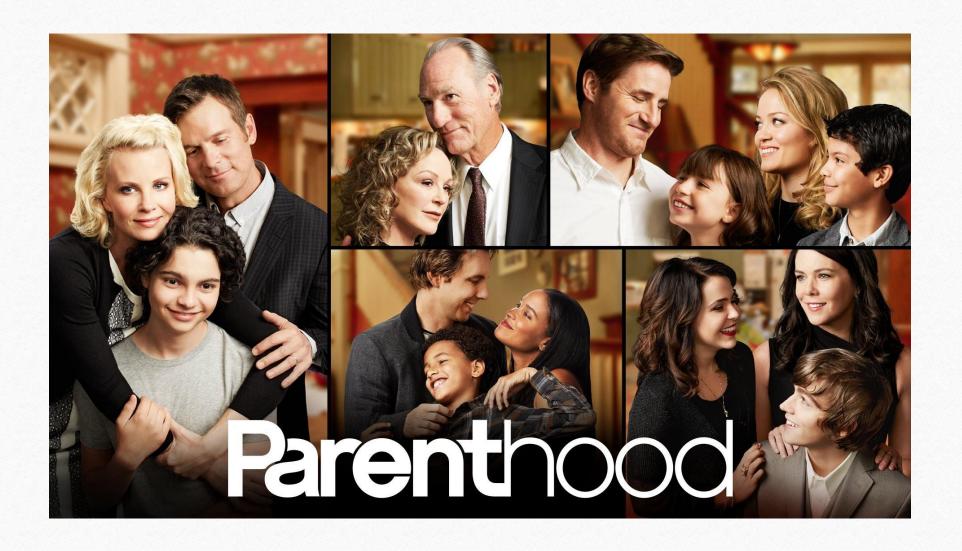
11 In him we were also made heirs

Galatians 4

to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Ephesians 1

he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will



Adoption is the highest privilege that the gospel offers: higher even than justification.

It is one thing for God the Father to forgive sinners. It is entirely another to adopt them into his family. Yet, that is what the Bible teaches. We are not merely forgiven. We are graciously invited into God's family as his children, coheirs with the Lord Jesus Christ.

J.I. Packer (Knowing God)

In Christ we're made heirs (adopted)... live as God's children

Romans 8

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Elected and adopted

→ Be humble & live as God's children

→ be childlike

We should focus on God and not ourselves because in Christ we've been...

(1) Chosen (to be childlike)

(2) Predestined

Ephesians 1

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- in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1

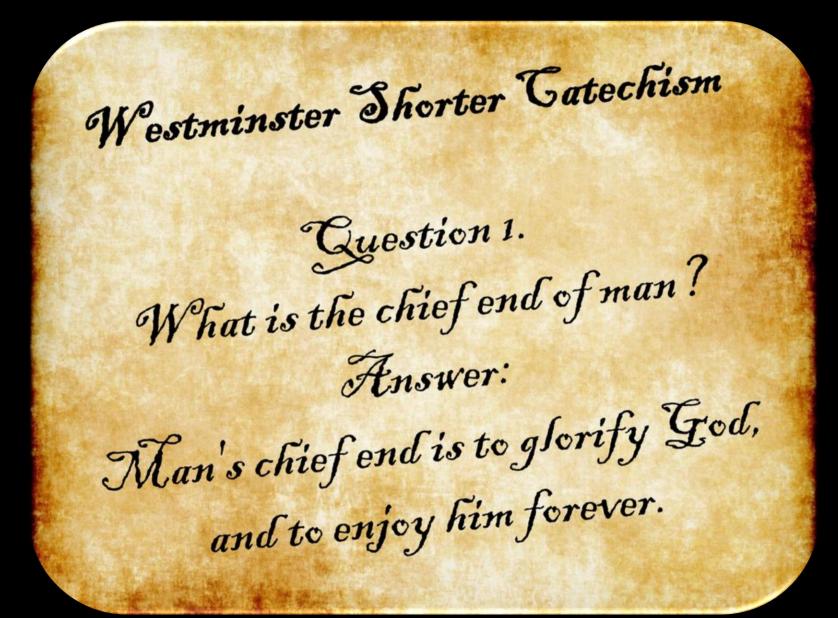
For he chose us in him before the creation of the world

Jeremiah 29

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.



In order that we... might be for the praise of his glory



Romans 11

For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Ephesians 3

to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Colossians 1

all things have been created through him and for him

Being predestined implies living for God's...

Plans: "Lord, is this Your plan?"

Praise: 1 Corinthians 10

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

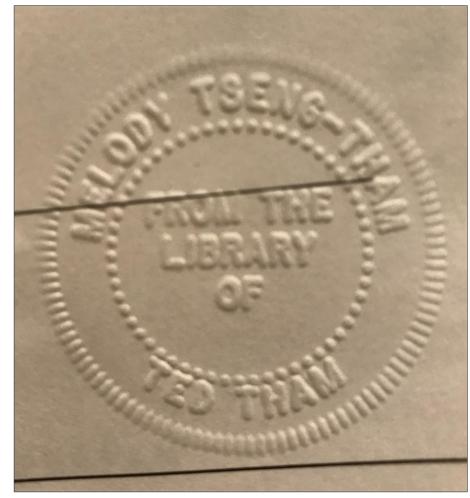
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- (1) Chosen (to be childlike)
- (2) Predestined (for God's plans & praise)

(3) Sealed

Ephesians 1

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,





who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession - to the praise of

his glory.



We should focus on God and not ourselves because in Christ we've been...

Sealed – and secure in God's Spirit

John 14

- And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever -
- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Are you secure in God's Spirit?

Is the Spirit suppressed, silent ... or are you sensitive?

We should focus on God and not ourselves because in Christ we've been...

(1) Chosen (to be childlike)

(2) Predestined (for God's plans & praise)

(3) Sealed (and secure in God's Spirit)

