

“Chosen By God”

2nd Corinthians 5:11-21; Ephesians 4:11 – 16; John 15: 1 – 17; **1st Peter 2: 1 – 17 (Sermon)**

Have you ever wondered why you exist, what your purpose in life is, and /or where you are going in life?

When we consider our purpose and our future we usually place the emphasis on ourselves.

And when we focus on ourselves we seldom find a definitive answer.

However, when we look at our purpose and our future from a Biblical perspective we always find a definitive answer.

We must never forget that we were all created by God and God had a purpose for creating each one of us.

Sadly many Christians live as if God exists to bless them by answering all their requests.

In Rick Warren’s book, *“The Purpose Driven Life”* he writes, *“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 or ambitions. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by God’s purpose and for His purpose.”*

As we look at our text from 1st Peter we find 5 things that we need to briefly look at this morning.

1. God chose you.
2. God chose you to be holy
3. God chose you to represent Him.
4. God chose you to represent God’s people.
5. God chose you to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

God chose you – Jesus said; ***“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit ...”*** (John 15: 16)

Chosen means to be selected or picked for a special purpose.

God created you with a specific plan in mind.

God put you on His earth, at this point in history for a specific purpose.

It is no accident you are here today.

God called you and when you responded to God’s call you became a Christian you.

I like the way *“The Message”* translates 1st Peter 2:9-10. ***“But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.”***

Next **God chose you to be holy.**

In Ephesians 1:4 we are told, *“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”*

Holy means set apart and dedicated to God.

Sometimes we don't feel like we are holy and sometimes we certainly do not act like holy people.

But holiness is not an outward expression but rather holiness is an inward possession.

lives in us and we are declared righteous by God when we ask Jesus to be our savior.

1st Peter 1:14 – 15 is a command for us to live holy lives.

“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” (Leviticus 11:44 & 45; 19: 2)

Next **God chose you to represent Him.**

Romans 12:2 tells us we were chosen to be separate from the rest of the world.

We are commanded not to conform to this world's values.

1st Peter 2:9 tells us as Christians we are chosen to be priests.

Yes, each one of you is a priest.

One of the great advantages of being a priest is that you have been given direct access to Almighty God.

In Revelation 5: 8 - 10 we are told it is with the blood of Jesus Christ that we have been purchased by God, redeemed and made into a kingdom of priests.

Throughout the Old Testament we find the priests were responsible for offering animal sacrifices.

We no longer make animal sacrifices today because Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

Instead Romans 12:1 tells us we are to be living sacrifices.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

Next **God choose you to represent His people.**

Another major responsibility and a privilege of a priest is to make intercessory prayers for the people.

In 1st Timothy 2:1- 4 Christians are told that we are to pray for everyone.

Christians are to pray for unsaved people so they will come to Jesus for salvation.

Christians are to pray for our political leaders so we will live in peace and have freedom to worship God.

All Christians are to pray for our spiritual leaders and fellow Christians so that they will remain true to their calling.

Last but certainly not least **God chose you to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

The good news of Jesus is God's message of salvation which is clearly stated in John 3:16-17.

You already know these two verses so please state it with me.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

When you became a Christian you also became God's messenger.

God wants to speak to the people around you through you.

In 2nd Corinthians 2:17b The Apostle Paul reminds us that we are messenger of God.

And in Acts we are commanded to be witnesses for Jesus Christ. ***“You shall be my witnesses”*** (Acts 1:8)

Quoting scripture is always a powerful witness but telling someone about the changes The Lord has made in your life is also powerful.

As Christians we were chosen by God to tell other people the changes The Lord has made in our lives.

We should never be afraid or ashamed to tell what God has done in our lives.

You may feel you don't have anything to share, but that is the Devil trying to keep you silent.

Each one of you has a storehouse of experiences that God wants to use to bring other people into His family.

1st John 5:10a says, ***“Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony of God in them”***.

The Message restates 1st Peter 3:15 this way ***“Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you are living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy.*** In 1st Peter 2:9 we read God chose you ***“to do His work and speak out for Him, to tell others of the night and day difference He made for you.”***

People all around us are spiritually dead and will end up in hell if they do not ask Jesus to be their Savior.

Jesus may call them home today or Jesus may come to establish His eternal Kingdom today. Tomorrow may be too late for those people.

2nd Peter 3:9-10 clearly put the responsibility on all Christians.

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.”

God chose you out of all of the billions of people He created to be a part of His work of reconciling the world to Himself.

2nd Corinthians 5:19 tells us ***“That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.”***

Being chosen by God is truly a blessing and but chosen by God also carries a lot of privilege.

However being chosen by God also carries responsibility.

This morning we are going to install Elders and Deacons. Cathy, Danielle, Stephen, and Pauline have answered God’s call to serve Him as Ordained Elders and Ordained Deacons at Mt Paran for the next three years.

Many of you have answered God’s call and have served as Ordained Elders and Ordained Deacons in the past.

But God’s word to us today challenges each one of us to remember that God chose each one of us.

God chose each one us to be holy, God chose each one of us to represent Him, God chose each one of us represent His people, and God chose each one of us to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the unsaved people around us.

Everyone of us needs to ask ourselves:

- *“how serious am I about fulfilling my commitment to Jesus Christ”.*
- *“How am I responding to God’s call for me to serve The Lord at Mt Paran?”*
- *“How am I responding to God’s call for me to be an active part of His ministry to save the world from sin, spiritual death, and spending eternity in hell?”*

Romans 14:12 is a sober reminder of our responsibility as Christians.

We will all stand before God’s judgment seat and ***“each of us will give an account of himself to God.”***

When Jesus calls you home will He say ***“well done thy good and faithful servant”?*** or will Jesus say; ***“You wicked lazy servant”*** (Matthew 25:23 & Matthew 25: 26)

Will you respond to God’s Word to you today by bowing your head in silent prayer right now and tell Jesus that you pledge your full allegiance to Him and to advancing His kingdom on earth.

AMEN