

Created for God – 8/07/2018

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them..”

Eph.2:10

Beloved in the Lord,

Many of the problems that people experience in their life stem from the fact that they are ignorant of the truth that Paul reveals to us in this one verse: ***“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”*** The emphasis in this verse is not on man, not on us, but on God. We are created by Him, to do the works that He has ordained. We are created to serve His will and purpose.

The majority of people do not believe in the one True God, and so they do not live for Him. They exist and function outside of God’s will, and then they wonder why their lives are not satisfying. They never reach their God-given potential. Many see no meaning in life and way too many people commit suicide. Many youth today choose to end their life, because they see no future, no meaning. That is sad and tragic.

God has created us for far more than just mere existence. He created us to have a full and fulfilling life that serves Him. He created us to bless us. When we surrender our life to Him, then we experience life as God intended it to be. It is important to surrender our life to Him. Paul writes to the Romans:

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Rom.12:1-2

This is the very first step. We give back to God what He has given to us, what rightfully belongs to Him. He made us for Himself. We are given a choice, but the right choice is to give our life to Him. Until we do, we cannot reasonably expect to experience peace and joy and fulfilment in life. God has a plan for each and everyone of us, and only when we are working and living according to that plan, are we in a good place in our lives.

If your car has a wheel out of balance, then when you drive it vibrates. Last year I was on a trip to Canberra for a funeral. When I got on the M5 I felt that the front left wheel was out of balance. There was nothing I could do about it, as I had no time, so I had to drive there and back with a wheel out of balance. It was an uncomfortable trip as the steering wheel was vibrating all the time. Next day I got it fixed and a week later I had to drive to Canberra again. This time there was no vibrating as the wheels were balanced correctly. The trip was far more enjoyable.

When our lives are correctly balanced then they are much better. Our lives are balanced when we live for God, when we surrender all to Him. I have taught you before, but will reiterate the point that surrendering to God is not a one time event in our lives. It is

something we must do constantly, at least daily. As begin each new day, we should consciously surrender our life to Him. We should remind ourselves that we are His creation, created for Him.

Jesus taught us this in the Lord's prayer when He said we should pray: ***"Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."*** When we pray this, we are surrendering ourselves to Him. God's will and His way is always the right way. He created us, and He has a plan, and He knows what is best for us in every situation.

When we are in His hands, then the road is clear and smooth, and even in those times when there are bumps in the road, we retain our peace and joy, because we know that God is in absolute control.

We are His creation, created for His glory. We are created to serve Him. God created us to execute His will and plan for our life. In so doing we honour Him and we praise Him. God created us to live in fellowship with Him. He created us so that we could experience His amazing love. God is love. He created us so that He could pour out His love upon us.

If you love somebody, than usually you want to spend time with them. You want to have sweet fellowship. God loves us. He desires to commune with us. He wants us to tell Him all things and to live our lives through Him and with Him. We are to live in fellowship with Him. Jesus says: ***"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. " Rev.3:20***

Jesus wants to sit down with us at the table and have a meal with us. The idea here is of a special meal – a dinner date if you like. The emphasis is not on the eating, but on the fellowship. Jesus wants to celebrate with us. Celebrate what? His victory over sin and death.

Sin is what separates us from God and ruins fellowship. Sin cut the tie between God and man. Man became God's enemy through sin. But God did not want to lose His creation. He still desired to have fellowship because He loved us so much. ***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. " Jn.3:16***

Jesus shed His innocent Blood on the cross so that we could be reconciled to God the Father. Through faith in Jesus, we receive forgiveness of our sin, and we are given a seat at His table both here, and in eternity.

It is important that we understand that not only has Jesus guaranteed our eternal well being, He has made it possible for us to live a good and fulfilled and blessed life this side of eternity as well. He said: ***"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."* Jn 10:10**

Jesus gives life to us abundantly. When we are in Him, then we have it all, and so much more. David wrote:

"My cup overflows.⁶ Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Ps.23:5b-6

When The Lord is your Shepherd, then your cup overflows. Psalm 1 puts it like this:

***“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!***

***² But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.***

***³ He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.***

***⁴ The wicked are not so,
But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.***

***⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.***

***⁶ For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked will perish.***

Jeremiah said a similar thing:

***“Thus says the Lord,
“Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind
And makes flesh his strength,
And whose heart turns away from the Lord.***

***⁶ “For he will be like a bush in the desert
And will not see when prosperity comes,
But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness,
A land of salt without inhabitant.***

***⁷ “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord
And whose trust is the Lord.***

***⁸ “For he will be like a tree planted by the water,
That extends its roots by a stream
And will not fear when the heat comes;
But its leaves will be green,
And it will not be anxious in a year of drought
Nor cease to yield fruit. Jer.17:5-8***

Both David and Jeremiah are stating the same truth. When we stay close to God, when we are firmly rooted in His Word, then our life is complete and overflowing, it is blessed, it bears good fruit, and it does not wither.

Today may we make a new commitment to surrender all to Him and to daily remember that we are His creation, created for Him. Amen.

Pastor Colvin MacPherson Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sydney. All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.