

April 27, 1988

God's Purpose for Our Lives

Reading Jeremiah 1:4-10.

Whenever you read the book of Jeremiah and see what Jeremiah had to go through we see the difficulties that he had, we see the disappointments that he had. We see the times of frustration, the times when he almost felt like giving up. Yet we read that God knew him before he was born. God had foreknown him. God had a purpose for his life. And I would say to anyone who has come to Biblical to study if you have truly received Christ as your Saviour, if you have looked to Him for salvation and are born again through His precious blood then you can say that this which Jeremiah applies to himself also applies to you. God knew you before you were born. God knew you far back in eternity and has a plan for your life, and you are very important in God's sight.

Therefore I'd like to speak about that this morning. God has a plan for each of us. God has a purpose in our lives. His purpose is a purpose for our development and it is a purpose for our service. He has work He wants to do in us and He has work He wants to do through us. Now in some ways the first is of greater importance. Paul said he prayed that he would not fall aside and after he had preached to others that he himself would be a castaway. Now we know that that was impossible in Paul's case. Yet Paul had to know that he must stay close to the Lord and that he was not drifting away. It was very important for him to know. We must keep our eyes on the Lord and that we work together with Him that He may do the works He desires to do in us and thru us.

When I was a college student I was very much impressed by a man from Vanderbilt university who came and spoke in our school. I was particularly impressed by his first sentence or two. I don't remember what else he said but those sentences made a great impression on my mind. He said the flywheel of the world 50 miles across going round and round hundreds of thousands of revolutions per second He said the is like a fly that is on the edge of the flywheel going round and round. He said the fly thinks that the flywheel was made for him. Well I thought it was a good illustration to show the smallness of each of us in comparison with the tremendous variety of the universe. We can't understand it all. There is a tremendous amount we will never understand.

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We can know this that God has formed each one of us as truly as he did Jeremiah. If we put our trust in Christ for salvation He formed each of us from eternity. He has a plan for each life and He has an interest in each one. He wants to use us, He wants to develop us, He wants to control us.

So easy to get all excited because you (think) are better so much better than someone else but to get terribly frustrated because someone else is better than you. It is in us as natural human beings to feel terribly frustrated, terribly excited over your relation to others. Now I think God wants us not to be _____ of our relations to others but of our relation to Him. He wants us to realize that He is interested in us personally, that He formed us before the foundation of the world and that He has a purpose for us.