CALLED TO ~~MY~~ HIS PURPOSE

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. [29] For [Because] whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. [30]Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

A NEW DESIGNATION

A few weeks ago we spoke about all believers being a unique people who have received a New Heart of His Love and are now designated, 'THOSE WHO LOVE GOD'!
This is a new designation for 'The Believer' which reveals more of who he or she is.
But here again we see another designation … that is … 'THE CALLED'.
This again reveals more about who we are In Christ … who we have become …
We are called, 'THE CALLED' … again a unique people assigned by God for a great purpose.

Romans 1:6

Among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE …

THE TERM 'THE CALLED' is not given to me because I responded to the call to salvation.
THE TERM 'THE CALLED' is given to me because I have been saved and am now locked into God's eternal purpose.
THIS CALL IS THE CALL TO HIS PURPOSE.
IT IS NOT REFERRING TO WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU BECAUSE YOU RESPONDED TO GOD'S SALVATION CALL, BUT WHAT YOUR ONGOING PURPOSE IS IN THAT SALVATION.

THE MOMENT YOU FIRST BELIEVED … YOU WERE LOCKED INTO GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE.

YOU TOOK YOUR RIGHTFUL PLACE AS THE CHOSEN OF GOD … DESIGNATED AND DESTINED.

YOU ARE NOT A COSMIC ACCIDENT

THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION IS THE MOST INSULTING LIE WE HAVE EVER BEEN FED!
THEY WANT YOU TO BELIEVE YOU ARE AN ACCIDENT … INSIGNIFICANT … UNWANTED … WITH NO DIVINE PURPOSE. You are purposeless and pointless – a random combination of atoms that crawled out of a slimy swamp. A meaningless accident of some cosmic bang. (Richard Dawkins)
THERE IS NO GOD WHO CALLS YOU … NO PURPOSE FOR YOU & NO REWARD.

One guy said, 'We form our relationships … we work to survive and then we die.

SLIDE

I am not the brood of the dust and sod, nor a shuttled thread in the loom of fate;
But the child Divine of the living God, with eternity for my life's estate.
I am not a sport of a cosmic night, nor a thing of chance that has grown to man;
But a deathless soul on my upward flight, and my Father's heir in His wondrous plan.

~Alva Romanes (A convicted Criminal)

THERE IS A PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE

Then there's the other side of the coin … a person who believes in God and realises there is a purpose for their life.

When I first became a Christian I was also told, 'God had a great plan for my life.'
This encouraged me and gave me a real sense of destiny.
But what was it? Would I become a great teacher … an international speaker?
I felt I was called to greatness but I didn't know what.

SLIDE ***There are many sermons about us being great … being a success … entering into MY purpose for MY life …***
'God designed you for success. He made you to be a winner.' (Andrew Wommack)

But what about 'God's Purpose?

WHEN I FIRST BELIEVED, HIS PURPOSE BECAME MY PURPOSE

We are *'the called'* according to *His purpose*

IT WASN'T UNTIL I HAD FAILED AT SO MANY MINISTRIES … AND FALLEN FLAT ON MY FACE THAT I BEGAN TO REALISE SOMETHING QUITE PROFOUND:
IT'S NOT ABOUT MY PURPOSE … I AM CALLED TO GOD'S PURPOSE.

This Call is not so much that God has a purpose for my life, but more …
MY LIFE WAS PREDESTINED TO BE A PART OF GOD'S PURPOSE.
GOD HAS PLACED ME INTO HIS DIVINE PURPOSE.

THE PROBLEM WITH US

The problem with us is … it's all about us.

Even when we teach Jesus Loves You … the focus is upon 'YOU'.
The narcissist says, 'Jesus Loves Me … But why wouldn't He … Look at me!'

There is a beautiful song by Russel Frager,
'Before the world began, You were on His mind …
Everything was done So you would come.'
There is truth in this … but it falls a little short of God's ULTIMATE PURPOSE …

The whole truth is: 'Everything was done So you would come'… AND BECOME A PART OF GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE.
THE ULTIMATE GOAL THAT GOD HAD FOR SENDING HIS SON & YOU COMING TO CHRIST IS THAT YOU WOULD BECOME A PART OF HIS PURPOSE.
You were Born Again for this reason … that you would be one of 'The Called' according to HIS PURPOSE.

THE CALL IS TO OBJECTIVE THINKING

UPENDED THINKING FROM SUBJECTIVE TO OBJECTIVE … UNSELFISH …

WE ARE NOW LOCKED IN TO HIS PURPOSE

When you were Born Again You became 'slotted in' to your place in God's Eternal Purpose – A Purpose far greater than you … a Purpose that started before you were born … and a Purpose that will continue long after you are gone. Nevertheless … YOU are an essential part in God's Eternal Purpose. YOU have been chosen and YOU are extremely significant.

Dr Martin Lloyd Jones states: The Purpose of God is IMPLICIT throughout all scripture but here in Romans eight, it is EXPLICIT.

A HEART FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

When we first believed, we received a New Heart that Loved God's Purpose.

We saw in the last message (about those who love God) when we were born again, we were infused with God's love, which made us able to love God with the love He deserved to be loved with.

Romans 5:5 KJV

… The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts …

WE WERE GIVEN A NEW HEART THAT INHERENTLY LOVES HIM
However, at the same time, we also had HIS DIVINE DESTINY IMPARTED INTO US.
THE NEW HEART NOT ONLY LOVES GOD HIMSELF BUT LOVES HIS PURPOSE.

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A NEW HEART OF DESTINY

Psalm 40:8 **SLIDE**

I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law [instruction] is within my heart.

So, once again (in the Grace of God) we do not have to strive to accomplish something for God … We just need to discover our New Heart and let IT start to lead us.

THE NEW HEART INHERENTLY LOVES GOD HIMSELF & LOVES HIS PURPOSE.

Christians who are striving in their own strength to try and please God … are denying HIS purpose and denying who they are i.e. 'The Called'.
They are like the man who buried His talent, not valuing it.

So also, Christians who have given up because of discouragement or compromise are not being who they really are. They have to bury their heart because THEIR NEW HEART LOVES THE PURPOSE OF GOD WITHOUT FAIL.

When you stop striving and worrying and rest in His Grace you will find New Desires rising in your heart … you will start to become more conformed to the likeness of Christ and even when times are tough you will serve Him in gladness.

THIS GREAT CALLING TO GOD'S PURPOSE DIDN'T START
WHEN YOU FIRST BELIEVED & ACCEPTED CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOUR

GOD DIDN'T WAIT & HOPE YOU WOULD ACCEPT HIM SAYING, 'I HAVE SO MUCH FOR THIS PERSON … I HOPE THEY ACCEPT JESUS AS SAVIOUR SO I CAN PUT THEM INTO MY PURPOSE'.

YOU WERE PREDESTINED FOR HIS PURPOSE BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

2 Timothy 1:9 SLIDE

(He) has (1) saved us and (2) called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

You were chosen and selected before God started creating the world.

Ephesians 1:4-5 SLIDE

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, [5] having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will [His Purpose].

THE PRE-HISTORY PREP

CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW MAGNIFICENT THE CREATION OF THE WORLD WAS?

God spoke and atoms fused to create light never seen before. He created planets … He flung the stars into their orbits … He expanded the vastness of the universe to billions of light years in distance …

***Imagine the explosions … the sounds as all the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy.* (Job 38:7)**

Genesis 1:1 is where creation began … *BUT DID YOU KNOW THERE WAS A PLANNING SEASON BEFORE ALL THIS … BEFORE TIME BEGAN?*

SLIDE ***God in His divine boardroom spoke your name. He displayed your picture and videos of you growing and accepting Jesus as Saviour and He placed you into His Eternal Purpose.***

As born again believers, we who love God are also 'the called' of God according His purpose. Formerly, we were taught God would work out His purpose in our lives, daily; but this is so much more. Before the foundation of the world, His purpose and so much more of us was already established for each. (Helen MacSweeny)

INTRICATELY PRE-DESIGNED & PLANNED

Psalm 139:16 (Slide)

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.

THIS WAS BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.

Galatians 1:15

*But … God … **set me apart from my mother's womb** and called me by his grace …*

Romans 8:28-29 (SLIDE)

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. [29] For [Because] whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

SLIDE WHOM DID GOD PREDESTINE?

ONLY THOSE HE FOREKNEW

Romans 8:29

… Whom He foreknew, He also predestined …

WHAT DOES IT MEAN, **'THOSE HE FOREKNEW'?**

NB: 'Those He Foreknew' are the same people as 'The Called'.

FOR GOD TO 'FOREKNOW' SOMEONE MEANS HE KNOWS THEM PERSONALLY - BECAUSE THEY ARE HIS SONS.

God already knew you were going to respond to His call to salvation so He predestined you to be a part of his eternal purpose long before you were even born.
But more than the fact that He knew about you was the fact that …
HE ACTUALLY KNEW YOU PERSONALLY & INTRICATELY.

Foreknow = (proegnō) From pro and ginosko; to know beforehand
To know personally … completely … comprehensively (Aorist tense)

God didn't just know you were going to exist … He knew before you were born … *that* you would be … *who* you would be … *how* you would be … or …
HE KNEW BEFOREHAND … THAT YOU ARE … WHO YOU ARE … HOW YOU ARE …

He foreknew every part of you even the very hairs on your head …

2 Timothy 2:19
… The solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: The Lord knows those who are His …

Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23
… 'I never knew you. Depart from Me! …'
There are some He doesn't know …

EXHAUSTIVELY KNOWN

Psalm 139:1-6
O Lord, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up: You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. 5 You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it.

PREDESTINATION ONLY APPLIES TO THOSE WHO ARE BORN AGAIN
OR TO THOSE WHO ARE *GOING TO BE* BORN AGAIN
GOD DID NOT PREDESTINE PEOPLE TO BE SAVED OR NOT SAVED
WE ARE ONLY PREDESTINED TO BE A PART OF HIS PURPOSE …

predestined [to be] (proōrisen) Aorist tense
To foreordain, predetermine, mark out beforehand. From pro and horizo; to limit in advance.

YOU MAY ASK ABOUT YOURSELF
Q. *'SO HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M ONE OF THE CALLED? HOW DO I KNOW IF GOD'S CHOSEN ME? THAT I AM REALLY SAVED?'*
You may even start worrying that you are not really one of 'The Called'.
A. Dear friend, if you are at all concerned about not being one of 'The Called' let me assure you that YOU ARE!
Anyone who is not (and doesn't know it):

1. **DON'T CARE ABOUT IT (Romans 1:21-24)**
2. **RESIST & APPOSE IT (Romans 1:25-26)**
3. **ATTACK & DENOUNCE IT (Romans 1:27-28)**

YOU MAY ALSO ASK ABOUT OTHERS YOU KNOW
Q. SO WHAT ABOUT MY FRIENDS WHO AREN'T BELIEVERS TODAY, THE ONES WHO STILL LIVE IN SIN & AREN'T IN FELLOWSHIP … ARE THEY NOT 'THE CALLED'?
A. Those who have not yet come to 'The knowledge of the truth' (1 Timothy 2:4) or even

those who are running from God or resisting His call, MAY BE 'THE CALLED' but they just haven't yet surrendered to His Call.
BEING ONE OF 'THE CALLED' IS NOT BASED UPON A PERSON'S BEHAVIOUR OR PRESENT CONDITION BUT UPON GOD'S ELECTION & CHOOSING.

FOR EXAMPLE: ***JOHN NEWTON*** ***who wrote 'Amazing Grace' … While he was a slave trader he wasn't acting like one of 'The Called' because his conversion just hadn't happened yet.*** ***SAUL WHO LATER BECAME 'PAUL THE APOSTLE'*** ***was not behaving like 'The Called' when he helped murder Stephen the first martyr. Yet He became the one who wrote 2/3rds of the New Testament including Romans. He said, 'But God had mercy upon me because I did it in ignorance'.***

Because conversion hasn't happened in time yet … doesn't mean someone is NOT 'THE CALLED'.
THIS IS ALL BASED UPON GOD'S 'FOREKNOWLEDGE' OF KNOWING SOMEONE PERSONALLY BEFORE THEY HAVE EVEN BEEN BORN.

SO YOU WERE 'THE CALLED' BEFORE YOU WERE EVEN BORN AGAIN AND EVEN BEFORE YOU WERE BORN PHYSICALLY. YOU WERE JUST A SAINT WAITING TO HAPPEN.

WE ARE CALLED BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING & ABILITY (IN GRACE).

GOD NOW INVITES US INTO HIS SECRETS … HIS UNIVERSAL PURPOSE – INTO HIS TOP SECRET SECURITY MEETINGS … YOU HAVE A SECURITY CLEARANCE AND AN ID TAG AROUND YOUR NECK THAT STATES 'THE CALLED OF GOD'. YOU CAN ENTER INTO GOD'S ETERNAL BOARD ROOM AND HEAR MYSTERIES.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

... Eye has not seen nor ear heard … 10 ***But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit***
YOU MIGHT FEEL TOO INSIGNIFICANT FOR SUCH AN AUDIENCE WITH GOD … BUT HE, THE ETERNAL MANAGER SAYS, 'COME IN … COME IN …'
HE INTRODUCES YOU AS 'HIS CALLED'. HE SAYS, 'THEY ARE INVOLVED IN MY ETERNAL PURPOSE'.

CALLED BEYOND OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

The two constants that we have when going through trial and tribulation are

1. **The Love of God in Our Hearts**
2. **The Love of His Purpose in Our Hearts**

So, times here on the Earth are often tough … but they actually work for Good for these two reasons.
Trials tend to strip away the flesh and religion till only what is real still remains. He that has suffered is free from sin. (1 Peter 4:1)

We must learn to look past circumstances.

CALLED BEYOND YOUR LIFETIME

Hebrews 11:13

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

We speak of these people of faith today … Their legacy lives on!

YOU HAVE BEEN PREDESTINED FOR HIS PURPOSE … A PRIVILEGE THAT WILL KEEP GOING LONG AFTER YOU HAVE GONE.

WHEN WE DEPART … WE *WILL* LEAVE A LEGACY …

WE LEAVE FOOTPRINTS IN THE SANDS OF TIME …

***A PSALM OF LIFE* - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

Lives of great men all remind us …
We should make our lives sublime.
And departing, leave behind us …
Footprints on the sands of time.
Footprints that perhaps another …
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.
Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour and to wait.