
KEY TEXT: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.” – II Timothy 3:1

- PERILOUS – difficult, dangerous, fierce.

INTRODUCTION:

1. God created us to be His servants.
2. We have been created to serve something.
3. When we obey God, He promises to bless us and to provide for us.
4. When we disobey, we bring curses into our lives and the lives of our children.
5. Our obedience to God is the only way to survive in these Last Days.

1. WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE?

A. First, we are created in the image of God.

- **Genesis 1:26a**

26a And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...

- You are created with a desire to serve God.
- Some may misinterpret this desire and serve other things.

B. If you are created in God’s image, then you are capable of serving God.

- God doesn’t require us to live a certain way if it was impossible.
- Tell yourself: I can be successful in serving the Lord.
- Jesus was our example to show us how to live a perfect life.

C. We were created to be God’s servants.

- God designed you to show forth His great works.

- **Psalms 139:14a**

14a I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...

- You are the masterpiece of God’s handiwork.
- You are a one of a kind.
- TELL YOUR NEIGHBOR: “One of you is plenty!”

D. You were created to be unique and to add to God’s church.

- You have skills and abilities that others do not have.
- You have things to offer that others do not.
- When you do not serve God and His church, the church suffers lack.

- **Ephesians 4:16 (NIV)**

16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

2. WE ARE ETERNAL BEINGS

A. Because we are created in the image of God, we are eternal beings.

- You will either spend eternity in heaven, or in hell.
- The choice is up to you.

B. We need to live our lives thinking of the eternal consequences

- Some people are only interested in earthly success.
- Mainstream Christianity is promoting the accumulation of worldly possessions.

C. Is it our goal to live a comfortable life while here on earth or to do God's will?

- It's so easy to get caught up on the cares of this life.
- It's no small thing.
- I've watched ministers dragged away because their priority became the accumulation of worldly things.
- HUMOR: You've never seen a hearse dragging a U-Haul behind it.
- We can't take one thing with us when we die.

D. The cares of this life become a trap.

- Jesus warned about it.

• **Luke 21:34 (NIV)**

34 Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap."

- Satan is setting a snare for you.
- Satan will use prosperity to keep you from following God's will for your life.
- Sometimes we are persuaded by momentary pleasures to abandon a lifetime of pleasure with Jesus Christ.
- The pleasures of this life are not worth it.

E. We can expect to see the desire for pleasure to increase in the Last Days.

- The scripture says that it will happen.
- It's all a deception plan.

• **II Timothy 4:3,4, (KJV)**

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

3. WE MUST RECOGNIZE WHO WE ARE.

A. We were created to serve God.

- He is our Master...our Lord.
- When we establish this fact in our lives, we can then set our priorities in order.

B. As servants of God, are we permitted to plan our lives without consulting Him?

- I watch so many make plans for their lives and never consult God or the leadership of their church

C. Did you know that God placed leaders in your church for your protection?

• **Hebrews 13:17 (KJV)**

17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

- In the multitude of counselors there is safety.
- When you are making decisions, you should contact your church leaders (pastor, elders, etc.).
- They can pray with you, seek God with you, and give you Biblical advise.

D. I've watched people make decisions that take them away from God.

- They take jobs that appear to great in the beginning, but then it consumes all their time.
- They decide to move their families without asking God's permission or advice.

E. As servants of God, are we permitted to do whatever we want without getting permission?

• **Matthew 10:24, (NIV)**

24 (Jesus said), "The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master."

- Master means an appointee over, commander

- We are talking about obedience.
- If we recognize that God is the Master of the Universe, who knows everything, including our future, why would we not consult with Him?
- **Jeremiah 29:11, (NIV)**
11 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.”

F. As servants of God, are we permitted to do whatever we want without getting permission?

- This is the classic age-old question that has been asked for literally thousands of years.
- People cannot determine if it is God talking to them or just their own thoughts and desires.

4. HOW TO HEAR FROM GOD.

A. First, you must be a child of God.

- You must declare with your mouth that Jesus Christ is your Savior and the Lord of your life.
- John 10:27,(KJV)
27 (Jesus said), “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”
- You should develop a habit of praying daily and asking God to direct your foot steps each and every day.
- Start watching for signs of His leading in your everyday life.

B. Second, you need to be part of a local church assembly that feeds you the Word of God.

- You should develop a relationship with your pastor who is responsible for your soul.
- **James 5:16, (KJV)**
16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
- You should seek godly counseling from your pastor about matters that you need guidance on.
- You should read the Word of God so that you can know and identify what God says about leading a successful life.

C. Third, be realistic.

- **II Peter 1:20,21, (KJV)**
20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”
- God is not going to give you permission to do something that leads you away from Him.
- God is not going to place you somewhere where you cannot be spiritually fed.
- God is not going to place you with someone who is not a believer.
- God is not going to “bend the rules” so that you have what you desire.
- Determine whether or not what you’ve asked for is in direct violation of God’s Word. If so, you have just heard from God.

D. Fourth, you should pray about any decision—small or big—that affects your life.

- **Matthew 10:29-31, (NIV)**
29 “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”
- God is concerned about the smallest areas of our lives.
- Nothing is too small for God.
- Now that you have been praying for daily guidance and learning how to recognize God’s

voice, you are better able to hear Him concerning big decisions.

- If you are married, consult with your spouse.
- Do not make decisions that affect your family without consulting with your helpmate.
- Seek the advice of your godly parents. Their life experiences can give you great insight.

E. What to do after you've prayed.

- If you determine that it is permissible, then counsel with your pastor and get his inspirations concerning the matter.
- Remember that your Pastor has been charged with your soul—God can give him insight into your decision.
- Ask God to lead you to a scripture that gives you the direction you seek.
- If He gives you a scripture, accept it, even if it is not the answer that you wanted.

F. Be patient

• **Luke 21:19, (KJV)**

19 In your patience possess ye your souls.

- When we rush into things, we often find ourselves in a bad situation.
- If that person that you want to marry is so incredibly sweet—shouldn't that be able to last for an additional 6 months?

G. If you feel like you have received a “green light” to do what you asked for, start to proceed forward.

• **Psalm 37:23, (KJV)**

23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.”

- If God places obstacles in your path, accept them, and stop.
- Sometimes we get stopped temporarily because the timing is not right.
- If God closes the door, then don't push it open by yourself.
- If God opens the door, then walk through it.

5. ONCE YOU HAVE HEARD FROM GOD, ACCEPT HIS ANSWER.

A. If God tells you “no”, accept it and move on.

B. If God tells you “yes”, thank Him and proceed forward.

C. Make God the priority in your life.

- Tell your neighbor: “I was born to serve the Lord.”

• **Psalm 37:4,5,6, (NIV)**

4 Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

5 Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:

6 He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.”

D. Make serving God the priority of your life

- You will be fulfilled.
- You will have peace and contentment.
- You will secure for yourself an eternity with God