

## God's own possession

We can look at the world around and the things that are going on and we can either become fearful or we can have hope...

The Bible says,

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

The Gospel came at a difficult time in the nation of Israel and spread out through a pagan world and brought about a change that has lasted for over 2000 years.

- God's timing is always perfect
- He is in control
- The darkness is not going to win
- The light has come
- The victory has already been won

We must plan as if Jesus is not coming for another 1000 years and we act as if He is coming tomorrow

The early church writers talked about the immanent return of Jesus, but they taught the people to live as God wanted until His return

Titus 2:11-15

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

There is no doubt that we are living in the last days

- Bible College Graduation...

We entered the church to the song... Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord And a few times of the years this has been triggered a fresh within me... Two Sundays ago it happen again

I'm hungry for revival, I want to see another revival... I want to see a fresh and dynamic outpouring of the Holy Spirit that results in people coming to Christ, lives transformed and our culture reformed.

- And when can it start?

It starts here, right now with a people hungry and passionate for Jesus and to see His purpose outworked in this world.

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God's purpose has not changed.

He has always looked for a people who He can call His own and display His power through.

- Rabbi interview on 3AW (mid 90s)

The Rabbi was asked by the interviewer, "Are the Jews racist?"

He replied, "No we are not racist, we simply know who we are and we know that we have been chosen by God to show the world that there is a better way to live."

Exodus 19:4-6

'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 5 Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

Deuteronomy 4:20

But the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, from Egypt, to be a people for His own possession, as today.

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## I want to be better

It is inbuilt in every human a desire to be better, most people seek improvement in their life and circumstances.

Wednesday morning (9/08/17) I heard a journalist / social commentator make the following statement. The discussion was about moral decisions made by religious people and those who claim to be atheists, whether one is moral than the other.

Remembering it as best as I can he said:

*Human beings are the only species that believe in something greater than themselves and strive to be better in the hope that there is a better way to live, but there is not. (Joe Hildebrand - Studio 10)*

- He's right on the first count, but wrong on the second....

Colossians 1:27

To whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

## **BORN FROM ABOVE.... IT'S ALL ABOUT IDENTITY**

- Jesus Christ is the hope of this world and so are we

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are A chosen race, A royal priesthood, A holy nation, A people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not A people,

but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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God has made a way!

Colossians 1:13

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

Ephesians 2:10

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

- God has brought us out
- To bring us in

Ephesians 2:11-22

Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands— 12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers to the covenants of promise**, having **no hope** and **without God in the world**. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly **were far off** have been **brought near by the blood of Christ**. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might **make the two into one new man**, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. 17 And HE came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; 18 for through Him we both have our **access in one Spirit to the Father**. 19 So then you are **no longer strangers and aliens**, but you are **fellow citizens** with the saints, and are of **God’s household**, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone**, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is **growing into a holy temple in the Lord**, 22 in whom you also are being **built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit**.

- Brought together in ONE NEW MAN Jesus
- Who is this man?

Hebrews 1:1-3

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

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you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not A people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Goodness - mercy - love

Jesus presented his own blood to wipe away our shame

Hebrews 10:19

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,

His goodness His intrinsic nature - moral goodness

*Intrinsic - qualities or features that are a central element in someone's nature.*

It is the impression made on others

Remind ourselves...

- The highest, most valued item in all of God's creation is human life. God values mankind above all and everything else in His creation.

Proverbs 8:31 (TPT)

I laughed and played,  
So happy with what he had made,  
While finding my delight  
In the children of men.

Psalms 8:3-5 (TPT)

Look at the splendor of your skies,  
Your creative genius glowing in the heavens.  
When I gaze at your moon and your stars  
Mounted like jewels in their settings,  
I know you are the Fascinating Artist  
Who fashioned it all!  
But when I look up and see  
Such wonder and workmanship above,  
I have to ask you this question:  
4 Compared to all this cosmic glory  
Why would you bother with puny, mortal man  
Or be infatuated with Adam's sons?  
5 **Yet what honor you have given to man!**  
**Created only a little lower than Elohim,**  
**Crowned like kings and queens**  
**With glory and magnificence.**

The value that God puts on every human life must also be our motivation, the platform to stand on and begin any attempt to solve the destructive social issues facing us today.

- It is not our own moral standard, though it is important
- It is not our religious creed or doctrine, though they are important

John 3:16-17 (NKJV)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

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## A life of effective influence

1 Peter 2:11-12

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. 12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

- we need live above reproach (v11)
- we live in such a way that we silent our critics (v12)

A life displaying the intrinsic nature of God - His love and grace - His goodness

- Do no wrong

Romans 13:10

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

To have a different opinion and to state that belief does not mean that you are any less loving. In fact it can prove the exact opposite.

- When you see someone in grave danger the loving response is to shout and warn them

John 12:35

....he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.

Salt and light - both are useless if not used properly

Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

- God has brought us out
- To bring us in
- That we might speak out

1 Peter 2:9-10

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but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Proverbs 10:11

The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life,  
But the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

Proverbs 10:20 (TPT)

The teachings of the godly ones are like pure silver,  
Bringing words of redemption to others,  
But the heart of the wicked is corrupt.

Colossians 4:5-6 (Letters from Heaven: By the Apostle Paul)

Walk in the wisdom of God as you live before the unbelievers, and make it your duty to make him known. 6 Let every word you speak be drenched with grace and tempered with truth and clarity. For then you will be prepared to give a respectful answer to anyone who asks about your faith.

1 Peter 3:14-15 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

Jesus is coming soon - we must prepare the way of the Lord

The disciples asked as many still do today, "When Lord?"

Jesus replied,

Acts 1:8 (AMP)

But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.

- Preaching the Good News of the Kingdom of God to everyone, everywhere...

It is not only about the words we speak, but the demonstration of the power of the Kingdom

1 Corinthians 4:20

For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.

- Jesus wants to break into our life so that He can then break out
- River in - rivers out

John 7:37-39 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, " If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

That day is here... Holy Spirit has been given, He is here...

*NASB unless stated*

Acts 2:33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

Ephesians 1:13-14 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were **sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise**, 14 who is given as a **pledge of our inheritance**, with a view to the redemption of **God's own possession**, to the praise of His glory.

He has not left us alone

The power to be and the power to do

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

The Good News is that Jesus Christ is the radiance of the glory of God, He is the exact representation of God's nature and upholds all things by the word of His power.

You and me are called to re - present Him

To do that we must be filled with the Holy Spirit... Always!