

# Pastor Ray's Bible School #12

## “God's Ultimate Purpose”

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God,  
to them who are the *called according to his purpose*. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestine *to be conformed to the image of his Son*, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.  
Romans 8:28-29 KJV

### I. The Prophetic View of the Purposes of God

#### A. The Big Picture Answers the Big Questions of Life

1. God is a God of purpose.
2. Everything God makes has a purpose.
3. Sometimes purpose is not known.
4. Where purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable.

#### B. The Ultimate Purpose of God

1. God has many purposes, but only one *ultimate* purpose!

“ultimate”-fr. Lat. “ultimatus”, meaning final or end; the last in a progression of a series; that arrived at as the last result.

2. God expressed His purpose in creation.
3. God has many good purposes. (1 John 3:8; John 10:10)
4. Until we grasp God's *ultimate* purpose (consciously or subconsciously), we will have another purpose in its place!
5. If I take an extensive trip, there are many stops along the way, but there can be only one ultimate destination. If I stop along the way, mistaking it for the ultimate, I will never arrive!
6. Only when I find the ULTIMATE purpose for which I am created can I truly measure my progress!

## **II. God's Ultimate Purpose: Conformity to the Image of Christ**

### **A. The "Golden Chain" of Redemption**

1. Foreknown—Predestined—Called—Justified—Glorified
2. The ultimate purpose is glorification, which means full "conformity to the image of Christ".

"conformed" according to Greek scholar A. T. Robertson is from the Greek, "summorfous"; "image" is from "eikon" and means likeness, stature, and always refers to character. A "deep inward change, not mere superficial conformity."

"..destined from the beginning to be molded into the image of His Son (and share inwardly) His likeness...that He might be the firstborn among many brethren..."  
Romans 8:29 Amp Bible

3. We are engaged in a journey or a process. (1 Corinthians 15:49; Ephesians 1:5; 4:24)
4. The ultimate purpose of God is nothing less than full conformity to the image of Christ, the replication of God's own character in us!!!

### **B. Implications of God's Ultimate Purpose**

1. Destiny determines direction.
  - a. How can I set my goals and course of planning until I know where God wants to take me?
  - b. How can I do anything but fall short if I don't know the "ultimate"?
2. There are no "direct flights."
3. The issue is, "Where am I in the journey?"
4. Purpose interprets position.
  - a. How should I interpret the circumstances of life?
  - b. What if I am in a bad work environment?
  - c. What if I am struggling under persecution?
  - d. How can I understand what's going on in my life?
3. If you think God's ultimate purpose is to make you "happy", you'll never grasp His true purpose.

4. Any false view of ultimate purpose automatically disqualifies my ability to interpret my present position!

### **III. The Prophetic View and the Ultimate Purpose**

#### **A. Relevance of this Principle in Old Testament Scripture**

1. Why did God not intervene in the Temptation?
2. Why did God make Abraham wait 25 years for a son?
3. Why did God wait so long to deal with Jacob?
4. Why did God allow Joseph to endure so much wrongdoing?
5. Why was God ready to “kill” Moses?
6. What saved David from judgment?
7. Why was God so pleased with Moses and Samuel and used them as examples of powerful prayer warriors? (Jeremiah 15:1)
8. Why did God allow Job to go through all he did?

#### **B. Relevance of the Principle in New Testament Scripture**

1. Why did God allow Jesus to be tested?
2. Why was Jesus so impressed with Nathaniel?
3. Why did He allow Peter to be “sifted”?
4. Why did Jesus say “By their fruits ye shall know them...”?
5. Why does God allow us to be tested? (1 Peter 1:6-7)
6. What was Paul’s primary motivation regarding those he taught?
7. What is most important to God, your charisma or your character?

#### **C. Solving Our Problems**

1. Too many Christians don’t have a grasp on “ultimate” issues!

2. So much of today's "end-times" teaching is based on a faulty understanding of God's ultimate purpose.
3. How can we understand the Bible if we truly believe God's ultimate purpose is:
  - a) To make us happy?
  - b) To keep us from all trouble?
  - c) To help us discover and release our gifts?

**D. Conclusion: Three Principles**

1. Every segment of my journey has one ultimate goal...to replicate the nature and character of Jesus Christ in my life.
2. All my present circumstances can be interpreted from this one central understanding.
3. When I understand this great purpose, I can understand what God's about in every chapter of scripture!