



APPNOTES

Date: September 02-September 06,2019

Series: This Is Us

Matthew 9:37-38 It's that time of year again; the relaxed pace of summer is over. Temperatures are cooling and leaves will soon change colors. Our lives are bombarded with work, school, sports practices, games, extracurricular activities, and household projects. Sometimes we can be so busy about our lives that we forget the purpose behind them. In Matthew 9:27-38, we are reminded that our purpose not only encompass our lives, but the lives of those around us. "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Jesus came as the embodiment of grace and truth to save all mankind. But He needs Christians to get out and harvest His field. We need to be active as God's workers on earth and help bring people to the His truth. We have the unique opportunity to help people in NEPA find their way back to God.

2 Timothy 1:9 "What is the purpose of life?" This question has been pondered by humanity for thousands of years. There are millions of books dedicated to this topic; countless philosophers devoted their entire lives attempting to answer this one question. How blessed are we as Christians to know the true purpose of life! 2 Timothy 1:9 is one of many biblical examples clarifying the reason for our presence on Earth. It states that God has called us to a "holy life" – that is, a life set apart from others. The gift of salvation is what sets us apart. But salvation is only the beginning for Christians. We are called to dedicate our entire lives to God's purpose and grace. As we set out as ambassadors of Christ, let us be strong and remain confident in God's promised blessings.

Romans 1:16 In today's culture, being a Christian is difficult. Ideals and morals based on God's word are no longer the norm. It is natural, as humans, to care about what people think of us. We often hide our 'light' because we want to be liked, respected, and accepted. Romans 1:16 reminds us never to be ashamed of our beliefs. It is through God's power, not our own, that we are saved. God's greater purpose needs be on the forefront of our minds, even if it means we won't find favor with our peers. This is much easier said than done. But we need to stand strong knowing God will never disown us. He is with us in every situation. There is great joy in the discovery of His purpose when we trust in Him rather than on our feelings or pressures from other people. Remember, our lives are but a vapor; God's purposes are eternal.

Romans 8:28 The Lord and His purpose are perfect, but we are not. Hard times can make it difficult to see God's purpose, especially when we only feel pain and grief. Many times, we don't want to be reminded that God is working our difficulty for our good. We struggle with doubts and fears that keep us from living out the purpose that He has established for us. Romans 8:28 reminds us that we can take courage knowing God is working everything for our good. If we practice living our lives with that mindset, we will have a smoother transition of accepting this truth in the hard places. We can overcome our fear by consistently reading and studying His word so that our faith will be made stronger day by day. As we learn of God and pray to Him regularly, we become brave to accomplish our great purpose in His name, no matter how difficult.

John 14:26 All people are made in the image of God. Each of us are born with a calling that we either discover or completely miss. There are so many times we struggle to recognize our purpose. With all the noise and confusion surrounding us, how do we decipher God's plan for our lives? John 14:26 reminds us that the influence of the Holy Spirit provides insight to God's purpose for us. He will quiet the din and remind us of God's words and teachings so we may have clarity in our direction. When we are overcome with doubt, let's bow our heads and listen to what the Holy Spirit is telling us. We will find peace and courage knowing, even when we have no clue, what our next step should be. The Holy Spirit will always be there to light our way.

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