

# PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

*For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)*

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## Why Are We Here?

Art Nelson

### Introduction

Throughout the ages mankind has been plagued by the question of “Why are we here?” Thinking people have tried to answer this question through various avenues of philosophy, psychology, science and religion. All of their answers have been woefully inadequate because the question cannot be answered without God.

The Psalmist asked the same question”

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? (Psalms 8:3-4 NASB)

When the psalmist looked at the majesty of creation revealing the glory and attributes of the Creator, Himself [Romans 1:20], he could only consider how insignificant man is. So, he asked the questions of who man is and why does the creator take any thought for him. Then the psalmist describes some of the thought that has been taken for the son of man.

For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his feet, (Psalms 8:5-6 NKJV)

This is prophetically speaking of the Last Adam [I Corinthians 15:45-49], Christ Jesus, who emptied Himself and took on the form of a man [Philippians 2:6-11]; but, God has crowned Him with glory and honor and given Him dominion, rulership, until all enemies have been put under His feet [I Corinthians 15:25-28].

The First Adam was given dominion in the Garden but lost that authority when he disobeyed, which is why the ground is cursed and man can only bring forth from it by the sweat of his brow. Now dominion has been given to the Last Adam in whom resides all authority in Heaven and earth [Matthew 28:18]. It is obvious then that the First Adam was created and placed by God for a purpose. It is also obvious that the First Adam failed to accomplish God's purpose and was disqualified by disobedience. Now, the Good News is that the Last Adam, by His obedience, has

made a Way through Himself that man can fulfill God's plan and accomplish His purpose, which brings us back to our first question, "Why are we here?"

## God's Problem and Desire

There is some contemporary thought that man was created because God was "lonely" and wanted someone with which to "fellowship". This is a ridiculous statement to anyone who reads the Bible. We get glimpses into the Throne Room of God in the book of Revelation where we see myriads of different creatures involved in the events depicted. There is not even a hint of "loneliness" presented.

The Scriptures reveal that God had a plan and purpose that was hidden in Himself before the foundation of the world but is now unfolding in time as the close of the ages approaches.

All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable. *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD." (Matthew 13:34-35 NASB)

This verse reveals that there are things that are hidden and that have been hidden before the world was created. It also reveals that these hidden things are only brought forth through Jesus. These hidden things involve the reason for man and God's plan for him.

There are some who preach that Jesus came to die for our sins so that man can go to heaven as if this is the end all plan of God. However, we know that this is not the case because the scriptures tell us that God knew beforehand that Adam would be disobedient and had already prepared for his disobedience.

For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you (1 Peter 1:20 NASB)

... the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Revelation 13:8 NKJV)

... but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. (Hebrews 9:26 NKJV)

... the works were finished from the foundation of the world. (Hebrews 4:3 NKJV)

... inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: (Matthew 25:34 NKJV)

As can be seen from these verses, everything that has happened since the Garden of Eden has been anticipated by God and nothing has caught Him by surprise. He had everything planned before the foundation of the world. So how does man fit into His plan.

God had a problem before Adam fell to temptation in the Garden. God's problem involved a created angelic being who was lifted up in pride and rebellion to seek a place and function that was not within the will of God. This is the one that we call Satan, the Devil, who left his first estate and function in the economy of God and sought after a different position. How was God going to deal with this?

God, being God, could have done anything He desired to solve His problem. However, for the sake of the other created beings, He desired to resolve the issue in a manner that would testify to

all of the righteous and just character of God. [*Note that God could have demonstrated His power by obliterating the problem; but, this would not have resolved the issue. It would have only shown that God was all powerful, which was a given since all created beings know that God has the power to do whatever He wants to do.*]

So, God made a lesser being (one a little lower than the angels) who would, through obedience, fulfill God's purpose. Although the first Adam failed, the Last Adam was highly successful by humbling Himself on the cross and becoming obedient even to death. This new race, those born of the Spirit of God, with Jesus as the first born of the dead, will achieve the fulfillment of God's plan and purpose.

Resolving this involves several aspects of the plan and purpose of God.

... The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8 NASB)

But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, *namely*, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. (Hebrews 2:9 NASB)

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. (Hebrews 2:10 NASB)

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. (Hebrews 2:14-15 NASB)

in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Galatians 3:14 NASB)

in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:21-22 NASB)

These things are all part of God's plan and their fulfillment has been predestined by God. Man was created to be an integral part of the final disposition of God's purpose. God needed a being who was fully obedient to bring judgment to those who had been disobedient.

## The Second Question

We have answered the question of “why we are here” but this leads us to a more personal question: *Why am I here?* Naturally, the answer to this question has to fit within the framework of the first question. Man is here to fulfill the plan and purpose of God. Each individual is here to accomplish his or her part of the overall plan. God has predetermined our work [*Ephesians 2:10*], but it is up to us to do it.

As it is with any job in the natural, there is a training requirement and a skill set to be developed. Both of these involve a time element. We are not trained instantly nor do we receive instant skills.

There are two primary aspects to our training.

1. That we learn obedience

Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. (Hebrews 5:8 NASB)

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. (Matthew 7:21 NASB)

2. That we learn to walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16 NASB)

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. (Galatians 5:18 NASB)

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Romans 8:14 NASB)

Until we make progress in these two areas we are not capable of fulfilling God's purpose for us. The Holy Spirit works in us to train us and to conform us to the image of Christ.

There is also a skill set that must be developed in us for us to be able to accomplish the goals that the Lord has set for us. This skill set is quite a bit different from those that we find in the natural.

1. Faithfulness

Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. (1 Corinthians 4:2 NKJV)

And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time? (Luke 12:42 NASB)

2. Diligence

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15 NASB)

Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through *following* the same example of disobedience. (Hebrews 4:11 NASB)

Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; (2 Peter 1:10 NASB)

Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, (2 Peter 3:14 NASB)

There are a number of things that could be added to this skill set but these two are the primary ones. You can see how important it is that this skill set be utilized in our training process.

Much of the difficulty in our society and the ineffectiveness of believers in America today is due to the lack of teaching and emphasis on God's plan and purpose for us individually and the necessity for each of us to develop and mature in Christ.

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For comments or questions contact Art Nelson at this address:  
[artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com](mailto:artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com)

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