

Title: God's Eternal Purpose

Text: Ephesians 3:8-13

(4E)

Ephesians chapter 3, please. Our subject this morrowing, "GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE." What a grand and glorious plan it is..

Ephesians chapter 3 beginning with Vs 8.....(READ Vs 8-13)

(4E) as we look at God's prayer

(IF) Paul starts right out in Vs 8 and tells us what he thinks about himself. I don't believe, dear friends, that we will have the ministry that God wants for any of us until we have the right view of ourselves. And Paul's regard for himself in verse 8 is interesting especial as he relates it to others. He says, "to me the very least of all the saints."

A lot of us are never going to be used by God because of our view of ourselves has not found it's place in the balance between the character of God and the sinfulness of man. And we don't really understaind that humility is th the secret for unlocking the power of God in our lives

James said "God is resisting the proud but He is giving grace to the humble." He said, "the one who humbles himself before God, God will exult and lift him up."

Our understanding of who we are is vital to Christian ministry. We're not talking here about a false humility or that self affacing attitude, or having a low self-esteem ~~seeming retiring or~~ ~~in actions or attitudes or words~~. We're talking about the sound minded principle that's in this scripture, that understands what God says about us ~~man~~. Understands what God says about himself. And therefore has a proper relationship to his grace and forgiveness.

Paul said, "I'm the least of the saints ~~less than the least.~~" ~~And that's getting pretty~~

and Turn over to I Timothy chapter one, please. Here Paul gives us a little insight into this. He wrote his testimony here and told you in this passage why he felt like he did about himself. And frankly this goes across the grain of modern teaching. Right now, we are living in a humanistic age, Often when ever I'm in another state or city, I like to go into the book stores. I believe book stores reveals alot about a society. I like to look at the titles of books. It's interesting how many titles contain the word "SELF" in them. It's just interesting.

Everybody wants to get their thing together. We are so self-centered. It is absolutely frightening. We all want to get our act together. We all want to be ministered too. And God knows we need that. But sometimes we lose perspective over what God says in His word.

In I Timothy 1:12, Paul says, "I thank Christ Jesus, our lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service. Even though I was formally..."...NOW, AREN'T YOU GLAD FOR THAT WORD? Let me tell you...changes can be made when God is in it.

"I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. And yet I was shown mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus."

Boy I am thankful for God's grace. I trust you are also. Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. Paul is saying that in spite of what I'd done, and what I did was awful. Yet, he said "the grace of our Lord was more than abundant with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience."

Boy, He has to put up with a lot, doesn't he? A lot of our sins and rebellion, and unfaithfulness to Him. But, he said "he demonstrated His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life." And then he gave praise and glory to Him.

Oh, dear friends, I say to you again that you will never have the ministry God wants you to have until you get a proper view of who you are and who God is.

He said that "I am the foremost of the sinners. It is my sin that makes me believe that I do not deserve the ministry God has given to me."

And if you think that you are God's gift to the world, that all your abilities and talents would make you a worthy subject to be chosen by God to serve him, you are on the wrong track.

and
It is God's grace that gives us whatever we have.

I Corinthians 15 gives us *an* ~~this whole~~ insight into ~~the whole~~ problem of Paul's regard for himself. He was always having trouble with his apostelship as it related to the other 12. People saying that he was *not* part of the 12 apostles, so why should we lesson to you.

I Corinthians 15 verse 8 to 10 is a beautiful presentation of how Paul regarded himself. What he really thought of himself.

After talking about the appearing of Christ to the other disciples he says in Vs 8.. "and last of all, as it were to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."

Now, watch Vs 10.. "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me."

That..I say to you is a proper understanding of oneself and one's ministry. BY THE GRACE OF GOD I AM WHAT I AM. I *am* the least of the Apostles. In fact I am not fit to be called one. He recognized that. But he knew that God's grace could make him what God wanted him to be.

Dear friends, what do we think of ourself. *Sometimes* we bring all of our talents, our wealth, *our* resouces, and we say.. "MAN! I CAN REALLY BE USED BY GOD!"

point
Listen, God delights in taking the small things of the world to confront the mighty. He *delights* in talking the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. God doesn't need all of *your* great talents and abilities. He will use them provided you and I have a proper understanding as to who we are. The sinnfulness of man that doesn't deserve anything from God. And the character of God---pure and holy and righteous and just. It is a miracle of His grace that anyone of us are used.

M
() Paul's regard for himself is also revealed as He recognized the source of his knowledge. No man ever had the knowledge that Paul had. He even spoke about it in 2 Corinthians 12 and said, "the abundance of the revelations given to me is a miracle." It is a miracle that I have not boasted."

If you only knew, he said, what God said to me. I have direct revelation from God. And Paul said that God knew all about that. Because God sent him a throne in the flesh to buffet him. So that he would learn that God's grace was sufficient for him. And that God's strength was made perfect in weakness.

Paul could have braged about the knowledge he had. But according to Ephesians 4 verse 7 he understood about how God gave what he gave. It was by grace. In Ephesians 4:7 he wrote to each one of us: "But to each one of us ~~grace~~ grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift."

Vs 8..He gave gifts to men.

Vs 11..He gave some as apostles of whom Paul was one.

What Paul is saying is that the ~~A~~ reason he is an apostle is because of the grace of God.

Out
And that is why you read in chapter 3 verse 8 "to me, the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to preach." I didn't earn it...I don't deserve it...I didn't come up with it myself...IT CAME FROM THE GRACE OF GOD. God's grace gives to us what we do not deserve.

WHAT IS YOUR REGARD OF YOURSELF? What do you really believe about yourself? Do you understand what God says about the sinfulness of our hearts? Do you understand that ~~now~~ ^{now} of us deserve to be saved, ~~much less be used of God?~~ Do you understand who God is and that we like Moses are to take off our sandals because the place we stand when we come into his presence is HOLY GROUND? Do you understand that it is only because, He, in his mercy and love and forgiveness provides us with salvation and a ministry?

Do you understand? *New London Trust Foundat*

(2F) Let's come to a second matter. ~~Paul's~~ ^{OW} responsibility to God's mystery.

And in this you will find a great missionary text. You will not need to go any further in the Bible to know exactly what God wants you and me to do. Paul laid it out beautifully as he tells us His responsibility to the mystery. It is not a mystery anymore. God is bring Jew and Gentle together because of the death of Jesus on the cross.

In Ephesians chapter 3 verse 9, the last phrase, says "this grace was given to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ."

Paul's responsibility was to reach the Gentiles. I want to take you on a quick trip through Acts and show that to you.

Turn to Acts chapter 9....Paul was a Jew. And in the normal course of things, during his journeys he would end up in the synagogue on the Sabbath. But Paul said that it was God's plan to reach Gentiles. In Matthew 28, in the Great Commission, Jesus said: "Go and teach all...what?...." NATIONS. That is the same word translated "Gentiles".

What is the great commission? It is reaching Gentiles. It is calling out of every nation, tribe, and tongue ^{and} people for his own.

Is God still interested in the Jew? Absolutely! The Jew first..the Gentile second. And God one day is going to do something for Israel that the world has yet to believe or see or understand. It is still coming.

But in this age, the age of God's wonderful grace. God is calling Gentiles to himself. It is His message. It is his plan.

In Acts 9 Paul on the Damascus road is saved. And every few Christians wanted to accept him. Let's face it. He was killing them.

In Acts chapter 9 verses 13 Ananias, who was chosen by God to talk to Paul, answered, Vs 13, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to they saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon thy name. But the Lord said to him, 'GO, FOR HE IS A CHOSEN INSTRUMENT OF MINE.'"

Boy! I love that statement. I would love to burn those words into all of your brains. CHOSEN INSTRUMENT OF MINE..

Isn't that beautiful, Even one of those words are power packed.

Now, why was Paul chosen? Vs 15.."to bear my name before the Gentiles."

Now, continuing our little study. Turn over to chapter 13..The first missionary journey. Paul and Barnabas are sent out according to verses 1 to 4. But let's pick up the story at Vs 44.....(READ VS 44-47:.(first phrase))

Paul knew he was under divine command to reach the Gentiles. That command was, Vs 47, ..(Read Vs 47-49)

PRAISE..THE ..LORD!

Look over at chapter 18. Mission to the Gentiles. Paul called to the Gentiles. That doesn't mean that he didn't care about the Jews. But God was using Paul in a wonderful way to reach Gentiles.

In Acts 18:6 in the city of Corinth, Paul is once again in the synogogue. Vs 6..."And when they resisted and blasphemed, he shock out his garments and said to them, 'Your blood be upon your own heads! I am clean. From now on I shall to to the WHAT?.....GENTILES.'"

One more...Galatians chapter 2...Paul was trying to corrdinate his ministry with the church of Jerusalem. And they had serious questions about him. And in the jook of Galatians, which many Bible scholars feel was the first of Paul's letters, chapter 2 verse 6 we read:...(Read Vs 6-9)....

You know, one of the interesting things to me is that Paul spent a lot of time talking to Jews, but he ended up having a major ministry to Gentiles. Peter, his major ministry was to the Jews, but isn't it interesting that God used him to open up the doors to the Gentiles in Acts chapter 10.

Paul wrote, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. For it is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believes, to the Jew first, and also to the Greeks or Gentiles.

(16) To ^{Preach the Gospel} ~~reach the Gentiles~~...that was his responsibility. That is the great Commission. It is also our responsibility. It is not an option.

You know, we in the Baptist church believe in the Great commision. We say we believe in the spreading the the Gospel to the lost. Let me ask you some questions , and you answer to yourself...

Could folks look at your check bok and know that you were committed to the Great Commission?

Could people read your pray list and know that you were committed to the Great Commision?

Could folks see by the way you use your time in a given week that you are committed to the Great commision?

You see, if we understand scripture there isn't anything in life as important as fulfilling the Great commission: my time..my talent...m y resources..It should all be dedicated to the fulment of the great commision.

That is the most important thing that we could be doing. It ~~is~~ what we all should be involvd in. This is the age for reaching Gentiles. This generation is our generation.

Why aren't we doing it? It must be ~~our~~ ^{your} committment.

(16) Paul then goes on to say that ~~his~~ ^{our} calling was not only to reach the Gentiles, but also it was to reveal the plan of God by which he was going to do that. Look please at Ephesians 3 and verse ~~3 and~~ 9...He says, "~~this grace was given, to prech to the Gentiles the unfthomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things:~~"

Now, what ~~he~~ ^{we} is saying is: I am to administrate or bring to light how God is going to acocomplish this plan. NOW HOW IS ~~HE~~ ^{God} GOING TO DO THAT?

He is going to do it ~~by~~ ^{through} you and ~~is~~ ^{we} talking the Gospel to people in this World. Paul brought ~~to~~ ^{the} light more than any other writer. God used Paul to lay on His people the challenge to reach the world for Christ.

And God has chosen us to be involved in this call. The early christians realized that. No matter where they ~~all~~ were scattered. They went everywhere preaching the Word.

This is not the day to be passive in our witness. I beleive the time has come ~~for~~ ^{for} us to get super aggressive. And to take a stand verbally for God: I really believe that. We need to introduce people to the claims of Christ.

Paul said that ~~God~~ has a great plan. And he is going to administrate it in this age. And we are to reach Gentiles. Let's do it. And then he gives us ~~some~~ ^{some} reasons for telling people about the mystery in Vs 10...

Paul says, "in order that the manifold wisdom of God ~~might~~ ^{might} now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our lord."

(3F) Let me just ~~four~~ ^{three} reasons with you....why we should share christ with peopl

(16) One, ^{as} relates to God, himself. He says in Vs 10, "inorder that the maifold wisdom of God might now be made known."

You say, "How is that being done?"

The word "manifold" comes from a ^{word} word meaning "much" or "many" and from a word meaning "various." MANIFOLD... ~~comes from~~, many variations..is the idea.

Now, what ~~he~~ ^{he} is saying is that God's ~~wisdom~~ ^{wisdom} has many sides to it. There is much variation within that wisdom. His wisdom is enormous.

And the greatest way he ever deminstrated how enoromus and many sided His wisdom was, was when he saved us.....

Now, let me illustrate that.... ^{True}

Turn to I corinthians chapter 1....The greatest deminstration of God's wisdom is that he would bring both Jew and Gentile into one body in Christ ~~through~~ through the work of Jesus ^{Christ} Christ at the cross. It exalts God's wisdom. Because that is not the way that the World does things.

I Cor 1 verse 18.....(Read Vs 18-21...first phrase stop)

Let's stop there for a moment. Do you know ~~what~~ ^{that} that is saying? God's wisdom is seen in that the World doesn't have any...(Ha)...

Did you get that? I think that is beautiful.

God's wisdom is ~~seen~~ ^{seen} in that the ~~world~~ ^{world} doesn't have any. If there was ~~ever~~ ^{ever} a day that the world didn't have any wisdom and they are not coming to God because of their wisdom, IT IS TODAY.

Vs 22.....(Read Vs 22-25)

Friends, God has exalted ~~His~~ ^{His} wisdom, through the cross of Jesus Christ. ^{we have} ~~MAN~~ ^{MAN} HAS TO CONFESS ~~HIS~~ ^{our} SINS AND REPENT. And to believe in what Jesus Christ ~~has~~ ^{has} already done for him. That is wisdom.

We, left on our own, would never have done it that way. We would try to earn it or prove our worthiness or say..."I ~~han~~ ^{can} handle it...I can achive it."

But, no~~f~~ ^f it cannot be. God's wisdom is seen through the cross of Jesus Christ.

Now, let come back to Ephesians.....

(26) ^{OK} ~~secondly~~ ^{secondly}, We see the reason ^{For} ~~for~~ telling the mystery not only as it relates to God, but ~~also~~ ^{also} as it relates to the church. According to the Bible this great plan of God's to reach Gentiltes, the way it is being administered in this age is being done through the church.

Now, I was ask once, Pastor do you believe that God's plan for reaching people in this age is done solely in, and through, and with, the local church?

And I answered YES....

you're
This is a great struggle amongst christians, ~~today~~. ~~It is my belief~~, according to the Scriptures, ~~that~~ it is through the church, that God is accomplishing ~~that~~ ^{his} plan. I do not believe you can set yourself outside of God's church and accomplish it...WHY?....

Because it is only within the assembled group of people, both Jew and Gentiles in one body that you can see how this wonderful thing God has done is exalting his wisdom. It is only there in your relationship to other people that you can see and understand how God can make you ~~with~~ one. Because we are all very much different, are we not? Different likes and different dislikes...

It is Jesus Christ ^{who} can make us one. And it is in the ~~and~~ frame work of that local body of believers that God demonstrates his manifold wisdom. And He takes people who would normally be at each others throats and through the work of the Spirit, and the centrality of Christ, bring them together.

And let's face it folks. Those of us who have been working for a long time in the church know that event^hat is a struggle.

Because often within our relationship with each other, we forget what makes us ONE. And we use the world system and go back to what divides them. Christ Jesus has made us one, Paul argued in chapter 2. And it is through the church that that oneness is seen. The manifold wisdom of God.

(3) Also, there is a reason as it relates to angels. Vs 10 That Wisdom is made known through the "church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places." NOW, FRIENDS, WHERE IS THE HEAVENLY PLACES? It is mentioned 5 times in the book of Ephesians.

OK
Turn back to chapter 1....Vs 3...Here we are told that we "are blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ."

Come to chapter 2 verse 6..It says, "we were raised up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus."

Now, I know where it is. It is where Jesus is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. We are talking about where God is...

Where are the rulers and authorities in heavenly places? IT IS WHERE GOD IS..Well, who is he talking about? I believe he is talking about angels. But there are two kinds up there where God is in heavenly places. Two kinds of angels. Let me show you what I mean.

Look at chapter 6 verse 12..It says, "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but our struggle is against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness WHERE?.....IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES."

So, we have those good and bad angels up there. And the Bible says that the manifold wisdom of God by which he brings us to himself by means of the cross ;and makes us one, is being manifested to the angels by what He does through the church.

NOW, WHAT DO THEY LEARN?...We know from I Peter 1:12 that the angels would like to change places with us. They desire to look into our salvation. Angels do not get saved. They desire to experience our salvation.

Here is something else. In Luke 15:10 it says that when one of us repent, just one, all the angels in heaven rejoice.

But, do you know what is going on all the time up there in heaven? Now, I don't know whether or not you believe this...or for that matter, even know that the Bible teaches this..IN HEAVEN, RIGHT NOW, THERE IS AN ANGELIC CONFLICT GOING ON...It is going on all the time.

Satan is up there. Do you know what he is doing? He is taring you apart. He is telling God that YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE IN HIS HEAVEN. DID YOU KNOW THAT? He is accusing you day and night. And he knows you by name. And Satan is accusing us. The Bible says so. And according to the book of Revelation, ^{14:12} Satan will not be kicked out of heaven until the tribulation period. And that angelic conflict and argument that is going on all the time in heaven will not be done and ended, according to Revelation 12, until the tribulation period. And Satan is accusing you.

And God's good angels are mystified by this unbelievable plan that God has of saving rotten, sinful people like you and me.

Well, I will tell you that there is someone up in heaven that is saving the day. He is your defense attorney. He ever lives to make intercession for us. And someone is none other than Jesus Christ, our saviour.

And all the accusations of the enemy, no matter what they are, there is one in heaven who sits at the right hand of God who ever makes intercession. And He is interceding for us, not on the bases of who we are or what we have done. But on the bases of what He has done. He paid the price of your sin. AREN'T YOU GLAD?

All the accusations of the devil..Listen, they don't stand up to one person's defense ...namely Jesus Christ our Lord....And it is in His righteousness that we stand before God.

I am not really interested in what you think of me. I am interested in what God thinks of me. I am interested in what the Bible says is my redemption and my hope. For underneath are the everlasting arms. And Jesus said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." He told me that my sins are cast as far as the East is from the West. THANK GOD FOR SALVATION.

The third reason
(4G) And also it is related to Christ as to the reason why we should be telling people about this good news. The Bible says, according to Ephesians 3 verse 11, "this was in accordance with the eternal purpose which he carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Dear Friends
Folks, listen, the bases for God doing what He did through Christ, is eternal. It is eternal.

A lot of us still have the idea that until we decide to receive Christ, God does not move in and do anything. THAT IS NOT TRUE.

Aren't you glad that God didn't wait until you had enough courage to ask Him to invite you? Aren't you glad He didn't wait?

Who do you think, in this room, would be saved if God left it up to us to make the decision? You don't accept Christ in a vacuum. ~~WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT.~~

We are dead in trespasses and sins. The last time I looked at a dead corpus, I didn't see much response. *IT is an eternal purpose*

In chapter 1 verse 4, "God chose us in Him before the foundation of the world." God's plan through Christ is eternal. The lamb was slain before the foundation of the world...PRAISE THE LORD.

You and I would not be a part of it, if this were not true.

(4F) And there ^{is a great} ~~are some~~ blessings, also, because of Jesus. He says in Vs 12.. "In whom(Jesus) we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him."

WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT? Back ~~to~~ ⁱⁿ chapter 2 verse 18 he says, "through Him we both (Jew and Gentile) have our access in one Spirit to the Father."

And here in chapter 3 verse 12 he says we can have boldness and confident access...~~meaning having been persuaded on the bases of What God has said.~~ "Access through faith in Him." WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

I like the words of Hebrews 4:14.."Let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need."

DO YOU HAVE A NEED? It is because of God's ^{great} ~~great~~ plan to bring us to himself through Jesus that we have access and we can come into the presence of God. And appeal to Him for help. I don't believe God ever gets tired of us saying "HELP." He has invited us to come.

(5F) And that is why I like Paul's final request to the Ephesians in Vs 13. He says in Vs 13.."Therefore"...On the bases of what I am saying.."I ask you not to lose heart"...Don't give up. Have you ever wanted to give up? Some of you might have drug yourself to church this morrowing.

Have you ever had the spiritual bloob? Probably not! You are so spiritual.....But anyway...(HA)

Have you ever noticed what the spiritual blobs do to you? I mean, there is just nothing happening. And all these little problems just keep coming along. Little conflicts with people and with work, or whatever...And things just get to be a drag....You know....(I SEE SOME OF YOU RESPONDING....HA)

Oh, dear friends, let's face it. This world is no friend of God's. AND this world isn't going to help you in any way, shape or form, to get committed to Christ. It really isn't.

It is easy to want to give up. It is easy to loss heart. The very way it is stated in Vs 13 indicates that that is our natural tendency. Our ~~tendenc~~ tendency is to lose heart and to give up.

Jesus said in Luke ¹⁰10:1 that "man ought ~~to~~ always to pray and not lose heart."

Galatians 6..."Be not weary in well doing, in due season we will reap if we do not lose heart.

In 2 Corinthians 4:1 Paul says "therefore since we have this ministry let us not lose heart." Let's not give up.

Testings can come into~~o~~ our lives...sickness can come...problems... heartaches....beardens...And all of these things can cause us to want to give up. WE LOSE HEART.

And so Paul is simply saying..in reaction to his trails..."DON" T LOSE HEART. What do we do when we hear of trials and burdens and heartaches?

Listen, they are a part of God's plan. God is trying to do something wonderful through them.

But, many of us miss the blessings because we lose heart. We get discouraged. We get our eyes off of the great commission and onto our problems

HAS THAT EVERY HAPPENED TO YOU? HAY! It happens all the time.

"The Word of God is very much aware of the problem. And that is why Paul gave ~~them~~ a reason behind ~~his~~ tribulations. He said, vs 13, "Listen, I don't want you to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory."...NOW HOW?

Let me give you one example and then we are through. Turn over to Philippians chapter 1....Philippians 1:12-²¹~~14~~...What a beautiful example. Don't ~~lose~~ ^{lose} heart because of trails and testing. They are your glory.

(Read Vs 12-21)

Oh, dear friends, where do we stand? Test and trails can wipe us out. You can get so low you don't know what the meaning of "up" is. You can get so down and discouraged. And the sad thing is that the old sin nature feeds on it. And you can set around waiting jfor someone to minister to you to have a little love in your life....

And before you know it, the Devil has you on the wrong road. So that your whole commitment is ministering to "myself".

And you can ~~come~~ ^{ask} into the doors of the church on Sunday morning and ^{you} asking yourself, subconsciously, I WONDER WHAT IS GOING TO BE SAID "TO ME" TODAY!... *Or what can this service do for me*

^{Sol 7-1} And thank God, His ^{For} Word, nourishes our hearts. But many of us.. ^{The sacrament is that} That is the only understanding we have of the church. We come asking.. WHAT IS THIS CHURCH GOING TO DO FOR ME".

And our whole commitment is wrong..... And the question ^{ought to be} is: WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ^{for Christ and his church?}

We are ~~for~~ always wanting to receive...to be ministered unto...to be loved....But when is going to turn around?

Jesus said that "we are to be ^{servants} slaves of all." Regardless of the responses. We are to be committed. To the Jew, I became a Jew. To the Gentile I became a Gentile. I became all things to all men that somehow I might win some to the Lord. That is ^{my work} ~~work~~, my time, my talents, my resources.

^{out} Your job is not important except to ^{pay} pay expenses. It is not suppose to be the main thing you are doing in this world.

^{you're} The main thing you are suppose to be doing in this world is reaching people for Jesus Christ. And you are to use your talents for the Great commission. WHEN WILL WE EVER GET TURNED AROUND IN OUR WHOLE PERSPECTIVE. It isn't the world circling around me and my needs. And God's great program is to make me happy.

God's great program is to flow through me to a world that needs Christ. Everything that I am...all of my talents...even the ministry of the body of Jesus Christ to each other...HAS ONE GREAT GOAL...~~THAT~~ THAT WITNESS...THAT THAT LOVE OF THE MEMBERS ~~WILL~~ WILL CAUSE THE WHOLE WORLD TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST.

By our love - they (the world) will know they we are saved

Shall we close in prayer