

Fulfilling Our Purpose

With the beginning of a new year we have the opportunity to begin again. We can lay aside the mistakes and failures of the past year and by God's grace attempt to live as he wants us to in the new year. In this new year I want to challenge you to make a resolution that will impact your life both now and for all eternity. Here's a resolution for us all: in 2009 I resolve to fulfill the purpose for which God created me. A pretty lofty goal, huh? It certainly is, yet with God's help it is reachable and if you fulfill this resolution you really don't need any other resolutions. So what is the purpose for which God created us? A. W. Tozer explains, "There are three purposes for which we exist on earth: to worship, to witness and to work." Let's look at these three.

We exist to worship. Psalm 95.6 says, "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." Psalm 29.2 says, "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness." We exist to worship God. When God created Adam and Eve and put them in the garden, he expected them to obey him and to have unhindered fellowship with him. Worship is not simply something you do on Sunday morning. Worship is more than singing. Worship is a lifestyle; it is a lifestyle of obeying God, praising God, and glorifying God. The Apostle Paul wrote, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10.31). That's worship!

We exist to witness. As followers of Jesus Christ, we have a responsibility to tell others about him. Acts 8.4 says, "Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went." That is, they went around evangelizing. The early church had a passion to share the message of Christ with others. Do we have that passion? Maybe some of us need to repent of our indifference when it comes to witnessing. I'm sure all of us have squandered opportunities in the past year to tell others about Jesus. Let's resolve to do better this year. Let's resolve to make the most of every opportunity, and when God opens a door may we walk through it and speak up for Jesus.

We exist to work. After creating Adam, God put him in the garden to work and take care of it (see Genesis 3.15). Adam had a job that the Lord gave him. God has always expected his people to work. Laziness and serving God do not go hand in hand. Actually, being a Christian dignifies whatever work you do. Colossians 3.23-34 reads, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." Whatever job you have, ultimately the Lord is your boss and you are serving him each day. That means you ought to do your best. One of the reasons Christ redeemed us was so that we would commit our lives to doing good works (see Ephesians 2.10). I pray that in 2009 we would all be people who are "zealous for good works" (Titus 2.14 NKJV).

Pastor Mark