

Pt. 3: Purpose - The Good Purpose

Sermon Title: **Pt. 3: Purpose - The Good Purpose**

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Nathaniel Bronner: When you help someone else, the main person it helps is you.

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(Music Playing)

Automated Voice: And now for Purpose Part 3, "The Good Purpose."

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother you need the Word.

And for those who are joining us right now on television, normally, the prayer is always prior and what you see on television is just the beginning of the message, but I just to want to pray with you for just a few seconds because some of you, you haven't prayed today. So, just wherever you are, unless you're driving, bow your heads, close your eyes and let's just pray, starting off, "Dear Heavenly Father, we just first of all want to say thank you, not give me, but just thank you. Thank you, dear Father."

If you're even watching on television, if you're watching the stream, if you're watching on the Internet, number one, you got eyes to see, you get money to have a building, you get money to pay your electricity bill, you get money to pay your cell bill, you get money to pay your Internet bill.

So, even though we may have some shortages, Lord, we just want to say thank you right now for that for what you have given us, Lord, I pray today that you take control of my mind, my spirit, every word that I shall speak, every thought I shall think. Open the hearts and minds of the people that wherever they are, that they should be able to receive your word unto them upon this day. In Thy Son, Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

And right now, we're Part 3 of a series just called "Purpose" and so many of us sometimes, we just have a challenge understanding our purpose in life. What are we really here for? And when you don't know purpose, it leaves you wondering sometimes and I told you last week, today I'm going to tell you what the Bible says your purpose is. But before I get to that scripture, I want to preface

that by another couple of scriptures, starting in Revelations 14:13.

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

Now I want you to hear, this is revelation, but when John begins with the Book of Revelations, he says, “This is the revelation of Jesus, the Christ.” And here he says, “Yea, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.” This is folk who did. So, your works are going to follow you.

Also in Revelation Chapter 20, beginning at the 12th Verse, “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.”

A lot of times, we forget that part and the key points from just those verses that I read, “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. They died in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit and they may rest from their labours and their works are going to follow them.” Your works are going to follow you even on the other side of the grave. And the dead will judge out of those things which are written in the books according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it and the death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

I want to speak today from the subject of a Good Purpose and the Verse that gives us the major key about purpose, Ephesians 2:10 and it reads, “For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” You're God's handiwork, you're created in the image of God, in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for you to do.

Do you know God has already prepared the works for you to do? Already before the foundation of the earth, he has prepared the good works for you to do.

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You were prepared, you were created to do good. And if we can get that one thing in our head. We were created to do good. If you want to know your purpose, to do good. To do good. To do good. To do good. If we could just get that one simple thought in our minds. And you wonder, Lord, what do I do? Do good! Lord, why am I put in for? To do good! Often, we mess up and we end up getting so depressed and all of the scientific studies and all of the psychological studies have borne this true.

When we become self-centered, we become cold. But they'll all tell you, if you want to live a long time, do good, give, volunteer, do for others. There's something about that, it extends your life, it extends your joy. If you want to die early, if you want to be cold, if you want to be depressed, just focus on your stuff. Just focus on what you can get and when you change mentality to understand that we are placed in this earth, we are created to do good. It changes everything.

I preached the sermon actually 16 years ago, Sermon No. 5171 and it was called "Workbook" and it talked about those very verses. When I saw that Revelation, I said, "Wait a minute." And you see, the thing about it, we often look at that verse and we don't remember the verse that's right really after that verse because the verse we do remember is that -- you know, the verse that we remember so much is Ephesians 2:7-10 and this is what all of us know. "For it is by grace you have been saved." You know that. What's the rest of that? For we are saved by and not by. We all know that. We've been preached on it. We're saved by grace, not by works. That's absolutely true.

The verse in Revelation does not say you're saved by work, it said, you're judged by your works. Two different things. Not that you're saved by works, you are judged by your works. Huge difference. So, that verse comes right after the verse we're so familiar with. It is by grace you have been saved through faith and this not from yourselves, it is a gift of God. Not by works, so that no one can boast for we are God's workmanship, created in

Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

And there was a young couple and they were walking out in the park and they decided to just sit down on the bench. And the young lady, she looked up in the man's eyes and she said, "Do you think that my eyes are like the stars?" And he said, "Yeah." She said, "Do you think that my hair flows like the waving wind and shines in the moonlight with this magnificent glow?" He said, "Yeah." And she said, "Do you think my teeth are like pearls that glisten and gleam and just makes my smile so dazzling?" And he looked at her and said, "Yeah." She said, "Joe, you have such a way with words."

You know, sometimes, our works are nothing but empty words when we don't have love behind it, but oftentimes, it is the love that will generate the works. Show me your faith and I'll show you your works because faith without works is just dead. The two of them go hand in hand, but often, we just got the word and there are no works. And Jesus says in Revelation, you're going to be judged by those works. I believe that just as it is on earth as it is in heaven, there are levels in heaven. Jesus tells you that many times.

He said, this person is going to be the least in the kingdom of heaven. Those will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. So, there's least and greatest in the kingdom of heaven, but what's going to determine whether you're least or greatest in the kingdom of heaven? It may be what you send up from this life. You got to first get that. That's the first. You got to first get that. But see, when you even look at the United States in a lot of countries, the U.S. is considered the promise land. It's considered paradise. You know, if they can just get to the U.S. because in the U.S., to get a minimum wage job in the U.S. is a fortune in some other countries. And they get here, if they can just get a job as a dishwasher, oh man, that's paradise.

And it is paradise in their minds, but I'm here to tell you, that's not all there is. There are different levels. So, just as if you get here, even one of the lowest levels is still far higher than somewhere else, but still, there are different levels.

I think heaven is just like that. And our treasure is going to depend on what we have sent up. It is going to depend on what is written in the book of life. And when they open that book of life, for Jesus to judge what is written by our works. He's going to look at those things and He's going to say, "For it's good." Because some of our work is just not good. And He's going to look at those works and ask the question, "What's good? What are you doing that's good?"

There was once a young boy and he was about 12 years old. He lived way out in the country. Didn't get to the city much and he was in school and he saw a poster that the circus was coming. And he went back all excited and told his parents. He said, "Mom and Dad, I want to go this circus way back about a hundred years ago." So, his said he could go to the circus. So, they gave him a dollar to go to the circus.

So, he went downtown, little country town, got way from out in the country. He was then, he saw this parade coming. And they were coming to go to the circus tent and he saw this parade, so he saw the horses parading. And he saw the dance was parading. And he was just, "Oh," some that he just never seen before. So, finally, he comes this last little clown with big floppy shoes and big red nose and everything. The boy was just so excited. So, he ran up to the clown. Gave the clown his dollar and went home because he thought that was all there was to the circus.

But the (00:11:32) was awesome. You know sometimes, we're like that with church. We come in, hear some magnificent singing, see some magnificent dancing, hear some okay preaching and then we leave church and we think that's all there is. No, that's not all there is. In your workbook, I believe Jesus will look and see, well let me see how they did in the church. But also believe they're not going to just look and see how they did in the church.

They're mainly going to look and see what you did when you left this church. How did you do outside of the synagogue? Jesus to be honest about it, he didn't have a whole lot of good to say about the leaders in the synagogue. He basically called them new white -- you're white on the outside, inside for the dead man bones. He didn't have a whole lot of good to say. See, a real test about good works are going to be outside of this building. And what are you going to do good?

And that's why even on my daily list, I've got to help someone every single day. And when you have to help someone every day, it changes your mentality because at least for part of the day, you got to focus on somebody else instead of just your stuff. And it's not that I don't understand. But pastor, you don't understand what kind of stuff -- everybody got stuff. You're not the only one that got stuff. Do you not think the disciples had stuff? Do you not think Jesus didn't have stuff? Everybody has stuff but that's not what God is going to ask you about your stuff. What did you do good? I fashioned you in Christ Jesus to do good. What good did you do?

And so often, we get trapped in the materialistic world. And when we get trapped in the materialistic world, we lose sight of some things and even with my company. God, He's given me eight things of mission statements just in the company. I've got them on the wall. Wherever where we meet, there's, no our boardroom, these eight statements. And I tell everybody, everybody has the right if they see us getting away from these eight statements to correct, it's right in there. Because these are our mandates, these are our commands.

Number 1 is always be financially viable. That's the first thing. Because if you're in business and you're not financially viable, you won't be in business. Churches are closing right and left because they're not financially viable. If you can't pay your bills, I don't care how sanctified you are, you will not be in his building. Simple as that. So, first thing goes to always be financially above.

Second thing he says is use no deception. Don't lie, don't cheat. Use no deception. Third thing, he says, all products and actions must be beneficial. In other words, everything you do, everything you sell must do folk good. And sometimes, companies get all out of whack with that.

I watched a documentary on the plane yesterday. And it had to do with the modern epidemic of vaping which is the electronic cigarettes. And the number 1 electronic cigarette on the market is Juul. Yeah, I don't smoke, so I couldn't even remember the name of the thing. But anyway, it's called Juul. I believe some of you knew the name of it. Thank you very much.

But they talked about how the company was originally acquired by Philip Morris.

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Started back two young men from Stanford. Philip Morris has paid the company 18 billion dollars, but they grew big because they began marketing to teenagers. And they didn't put it on the box that this contains nicotine that they knew was super addictive. They knew it. And they did all of the marketing pushing this product to teenagers. They made 18 billion dollars.

The two founders are set for this life. See, some people say, "I'm set for life." No, no, sometime you're just set for this life. There's another life coming that you might not be set for. Because when they get to the book and they're going to say, "You give what? See you made 18 million dollars, but you did what? You sold how many of these things? You addicted how many young folks and you knew you set out in your business plant? You knew you were doing this. You did what?" So, you'll be set for this life. And that's why, sometimes people in business in big corporations, they don't understand some stuff.

Not only did Juul do that, the whole tobacco industry do that. They knew for 30 years tobacco was killing folk right in there. And they hit it, they lie, they knew they were just killing all these folks for the love of money. What do you think is going to happen when they get to judgment? And you were chief executive of Philip Morris. You were chief executive of (00:16:32) and you were chief executive of this but you knew this is what you were doing. This is what in your book that you killed 500,000 folk a year. Set for this life. But what people don't understand is another life coming. And that thing is going to be judged by your works.

Now you get to the place on your faith but you're going to be judged by your works. And see in heaven, if it's like earth, even it is heaven, I prefer not to be the dishwasher. Nothing wrong with it. I'd rather a dishwasher here than a -- well I ain't going to say that because I still might want to be a king somewhere else. I ain't going to say that. But the point is, I want to have wherever I go, enough in my bank try to do what I want to do.

And that's why Jesus said, don't put your treasure here on earth. See all of me in the tobacco, in the e-cigarette business. See, they were putting all of their treasures in earth where moth and rust

can break in and contaminate and thieves can steal and even if they don't steal, you're going to leave it. Even if you they do pay you 18 billion dollars, you're not going to take one red penny of that with you.

You're going to leave it all here. And the thing about it, what folk don't understand, not only would it not fulfill you in the life to come, that stuff got a price in this life. See that's the other thing that I've seen. Anytime you have ill-guiding gains, you pay for that stuff in this life. When you go to examine and analyze closely and you go to looking in what had happened there for a season, things look good for a season, but after that season, when we have stuff going wrong in the world and when you start digging into it, it causes all kinds of corruption and problems. Because of one simple thing, they did not do good.

And if you just ask yourself this question with anything you are doing, number one does this follow the laws of God. That's number one because some people's definition of good is not God's definition of good. Because some people got some real distorted definition of what's good. So, you have to always have a standard. So, the first question you ask yourself is this in line with God's word? And then you ask yourself, is this good? Is this good? Because sometimes, it can be nebulous. For example, if you've got a hundred dollars and you're walking down on the street and you see somebody who's in need, well, you don't necessarily have to give them everything out of your pocket. But you need to be able to be open and to listen and to know and to set out every day to do good.

And when you make that your purpose in life to good, it's going to change how you live and it will also change what you get. It will change the very fabric of your being and you become more Christ like. And that's why, when you're going 42 you have to give someone something every day. So, you have to think of how to help somebody every single day. You have to do good.

You know the very word God is good with just an "o" missing. And the very word devil is evil with just the "d" added? And the very roots of the word. God is love. God is good. So, if you ever can just get that, without a whole lot of complexity. My grand mom, who lived to be 97 --

-- and she went to church every week, and she would always tell us, "Religion ain't nothing but doing the right thing, but how you live". It's doing good. When we can get that into our mindset, "Today, I am going to do good. Tomorrow, I am going to do good. And the day after that, I am going to do good and do no evil." That's my purpose in life. That's why I say, I hate to change when people ask me, "What do you do?", "I had to go and I help people." So, everything I do, it has to be in the framework, "Will this help somebody".

Now, you do have to help yourself because if you don't help yourself, you can't help somebody else. If you're in bad shape, you can't help somebody else. So, the first thing that you have to do is you do have to be in position to help somebody, but you don't have your whole mindset and your whole focus, so all I want to do is just "me, me, me and me," you want to change and help other people. You want to do good.

This whole season is about a man who came into the Earth. And I have on this shirt, this is a Red Cross shirt and it says "Give more life" and there's a drop of red blood here. And they plead with people to come in to give blood because to give blood -- first of all, they hurt. I have a very high pain tolerance, but the Red-Cross blood drawing needle is big, it's not a little needle that you get if they just draw a vial of blood, it's a big old needle, because they have to take a whole of pint of blood out of you. So, it's a big, big, big needle, it hurts.

And then, the second they do -- actually the first, they prick your finger, they got to draw a drop of blood out to test whether you have enough iron, that hurts. And I said, "Why do you think it hurts so bad?" And they had taken and popped it, it hurts so bad because you have more nerve endings in your finger, that's why you can have such good dexterity, but it hurts.

So, it hurts when they take the blood sample, it hurts when they take the pint of blood, it just hurts. Sometimes, it hurts to help folk. And you have to make a sacrifice, it hurt for Jesus to come and give his life, it hurts. So, sometimes, when you help people, especially if you give them a part of you, if you give them a part of your resources, it hurts, but that is all the part of doing good. So, no matter whether you go to the Red Cross and give blood, you do need to give more life, give more of you, give more of your

substance; and when you give, it helps you. Now, even giving blood, I remember there was a documentary that C. Elijah has suggest that I watch about health and I've never seen this anywhere else. And the man, the doctor, he said, "There's one thing you can do to cut your risk of heart disease in half and that's just to give blood." He didn't explain it, he didn't go in studies, that's all he said, "If you want to cut your risk of heart attack in half, give blood."

When you help someone else, the main perhaps that helps is you. It's you, it helps to first of all, helps you to realize you were able help somebody, it really does. It's a lot better to be the helper than the person needing help. So, that's first thing it does, it helps you to realize how blessed you are. But, it does something to your soul, that puts you in this "Christ Mode" because when you think about someone else, you can't think about your own problems. And all of us got plenty of stuff going on in our own world, but if you focus on helping someone else, it will take your mind off your own issues and offer your own problems and it just changes things.

Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father, which is in Heaven." Let your light shine, and you let it shine by people singing your good works. So, I just command you, not just for this season, but for life. Do good, it's as simple as that. So, the next time you wake up want to know what is my purpose, do good. Lord, what am I put here for? Do good. Lord, what do I do next? Just do something good. And if you do good, your whole life will start to take a different turn and it will start to go up, you will feel better, you will be healthier, you will live longer and you live in greater joy. Do good.

And I thank you for joining us today, in the series dealing with purpose. We have one more in this series, you can go to BrothersoftheWord.com, listen to the entire series absolutely free of charge. Thank you for join us today at Brothers of the Word because brother you need the word. Amen.

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