

In The Beginning God...

- **Genesis 1:1, 31 KJV** - *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good...*
- **QUOTE:** *God is gracious and full of love. The world around us is not. So, our decisions matter.*
- We've talked about the importance of giving God preeminence. We've talked about God creating RHYTHM for life in the beginning. And, last week we talked about God creating FAMILY in the beginning. *Family is designed to fight back-to-back, not head-to-head.*

Week #4: IN THE BEGINNING GOD...CREATED PURPOSE

Isaiah 46:10 NIV - I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My PURPOSE will stand, and I will do all that I please.'

- **QUOTE:** *In the beginning God had a plan, and for all eternity GOD'S PURPOSE WILL STAND*

GOD HAS A UNIQUE PLAN FOR US ALL THAT HE WANTS TO REVEAL TO US

- **Ephesians 1:9, 11 GNT** - *God did what he had PURPOSED, and made known to us the secret plan he had already decided to complete by means of Christ ...11 All things are done according to God's plan and decision; and God chose us to be his own people in union with Christ because of his own PURPOSE, based on what he had decided FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.*
- God has had a plan for mankind from the beginning and He's had a unique plan for each of us.
- **Proverbs 19:21 NIV** - *Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.*
- **QUOTE:** *God has most certainly hidden His purpose in our heart...and He wants to make it known!*
- There are many things we *could* do, but the thing that we *should* do (the thing that will succeed and bring true fulfillment) is God's purpose.
- **QUOTE:** *God needs us to fulfill the dream He put in our heart because it is connected to His master plan.*

OUR DECISIONS AND LIFE CHOICES DON'T CHANGE GOD'S PURPOSE

- **QUOTE:** *God has a purpose for your success that is eternal.*
- **Romans 11:29 NLT** - *For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.*
- God gives us gifts, talents, and abilities that align with the purpose He has for our lives.
- **Psalms 127:1, 2 NLT** - *Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the LORD protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good. 2 It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, anxiously working for food to eat; for God gives rest to his loved ones.*

PURSUING GOD'S PURPOSE BRINGS THE FUEL TO FACE LIFE'S CHALLENGES

- **QUOTE:** *So much of the frustration and depression that dominates our society can be tied back to living life with a lack of purpose.*
- **Ephesians 2:10 NLT** - *For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, SO we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*
- **Ephesians 2:10 AMP** - *For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good*

works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us].

- The good life isn't automatic, simply because we become Christians or even become members of a church. The good life is tied to the prearranged PURPOSE God has designed for us.
 - We are called to BE WITH HIM
 - We are called to REPRESENT HIM
 - We are called to SERVE HIM
 - We are called to WIN OTHERS TO HIM

WE ARE CALLED TO WALK IN OUR PURPOSE, THEN HELP OTHERS FIND THEIRS

- **Matthew 28:18 – 20 CEV** *Jesus came to them and said, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth! 19 Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, 20 and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world."*
- As concerned as God is with our health and prosperity, He's MORE interested in souls
- **Matthew 13:45, 46 MSG** *God's kingdom is like a jewel merchant on the hunt for exquisite pearls. Finding one that is flawless, he immediately sells everything and buys it.*