

GOD'S HIGHEST PURPOSE FOR MAN

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REFERENCES USED IN THIS PUBLICATION

- **American Standard Version** (ASV or AV) is a version of the Bible that was released in 1901. It soon came to have other names such as the American Revised Version, the American Standard Revision, the American Standard Revised Bible, and the American Standard Edition. By the time its copyright was renewed in 1929, it had come to be known by its present name, the American Standard Version.
- **Diaglott** is a two-language polyglot translation, of the New Testament by Benjamin Wilson, first published in 1864. It is an interlinear translation with the original Greek text and a word-for-word English translation in the left column, and a full English translation in the right column.
- **King James Version** (KJV) references are used throughout this publication unless otherwise noted.
- **Revised Version** (RV) (or English Revised Version) of the Bible is a late 19th-century British revision of the King James Version of 1611. It was the first and remains the only officially authorized and recognized revision of the King James Bible.
- **Wuest:** Kenneth Samuel Wuest (1893–1962) was a noted New Testament Greek (Κοινή) scholar of the mid-20th century...produced his own English translation of the New Testament (the Wuest Expanded Translation – abbreviated WET) based on Nestle's critical text.

***Note:** Definitions of references pulled from Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, January 2013.*

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THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

God's highest purpose for man is found in the transforming power of the gospel. Paul, the apostle, wrote these thrilling words, "**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek**" [Rom.1:16].

The Gospel was a stumbling block to the Jews, foolishness to the Greeks; but to those that receive salvation, it is a life-giving message to a dying world. Paul declared, "**I AM NOT ASHAMED.**" He knew the good news contained in the Gospel would do for each of us just what we will permit it to do.

The wisdom of the world cannot fathom the glad tidings. Man has put missiles in orbit and men on the moon, but the thrilling message that Jesus Christ died for the ungodly comes by Divine Revelation.

*"For therein (that is in the gospel) is the **RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD REVEALED** from faith to faith; as it is written, the just shall live by faith." [Rom1:17]*

God, because of the death of Jesus Christ as our substitute, will impart righteousness to all that believe. In other words, we are "**ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED**" [Eph.1:6]. Christ's very own righteous life is given to the believer. We are **JUSTIFIED**, and **RENDERED HOLY**, **INNOCENT**, and **PURE** when we accept, by faith, the life of Christ into our hearts. **HE ALONE CAN MAKE US WORTHY** to stand in the presence of a **HOLY GOD**. The Gospel has power to make the vilest sinner clean.

*"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, **THEY SHALL BE AS WHITE AS SNOW**: though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." [Isa.1:18]*

THE PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the Image of his Son, that he might be the first born among many brethren." [Rom. 8:29]

God's purpose is that we be fashioned like unto the Son of God.

*"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, **THAT YE MAY GROW THEREBY.**" [1Pe.2:2]*

Salvation is the first step, but it is only the beginning. John the beloved wrote to **CHILDREN, YOUNG MEN, AND FATHERS**. Here we see different degrees of growth (maturity). Paul, the chief apostle to The Church, prayed that we might "...**GROW UP INTO HIM IN ALL THINGS, which is the head, even Christ**" [Eph.4:15b]. We grow into sonship.

*"For as many are led by the Spirit of God, **THEY ARE THE SONS OF GOD.**" [Rom.8:15]*

We put away childish things; self-will and self-seeking.

*"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and **JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST: IF SO BE THAT WE SUFFER WITH HIM, that we may be also GLORIFIED TOGETHER.**" [Rom.8:18]*

We have the **BRIGHT PROSPECT** of being glorified on an equal basis with the Son of God. It almost staggers our imagination! However, we must share in His sufferings, if we share in His **HIGHEST GLORY**.

*"If we suffer, we shall also **REIGN WITH HIM**, if we deny him, he also will deny us." [2Ti.2:11]*

That is, He will deny us the honor of a place of equal authority with Him on the throne. When one becomes a **JOINT-HEIR** with another they cannot divide the inheritance; they must share it together. The Lord would not have our eyes to linger upon the sufferings.

*"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be **REVEALED IN US**." [Rom.8:19]*

ALL CREATION is waiting for the manifestation; the clear, visible, open appearance of the sons of God. This glorious consummation will take place "*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye*" [1Co.15:52a], when the first trumpet sounds. Those that are ready will be kept from the **HOUR OF TRIAL** that shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell on the earth. The exaltation that the sons of God will enjoy is beyond the limits of our highest thoughts. Not all will share the full glory, but "*He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God*" [Rev.21:7].

Possibly then we may explore the utmost limits of this vast universe. No space suits, oxygen, or other equipment will be needed. (Scientists and astronomers tell us the star cluster we belong to is the Milky Way Galaxy. They believe it is 100,000 light years across. This means the distance light will travel in 100,000 years at the speed of 186,000 miles per second.) Man has seen very, very little of the vast universe. We who grow up into sonship have the hope of sharing the eternal glory of the Son of God throughout the entire universe. What a **DAZZLING PROSPECT**!

THE PROVISION OF THE GOSPEL

God's Word extends to us the challenge of letting the Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit, prepare us for this exalted place in His plan and purpose.

*"For the love of Christ constraineth us, because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead. And that he die for all, that they which live **SHOULD NOT HENCEFORTH LIVE UNTO THEMSELVES, BUT UNTO HIM** which died for them and rose again." [2Co.5:14-15]*

Even though we are born again, the nature of the flesh would like to motivate our lives. However, as the love of Christ grips our hearts, it constrains us to yield our lives wholly to Him. The word **constrain** means, "*a violent force by which the soul is overpowered*." Like the little rhyme...

I HEARD HIM SAY, "COME FOLLOW." THAT WAS ALL.
MY GOLD GREW DIM, MY SOUL WENT AFTER HIM.

The Gospel begins to possess us, command us, rule us, draw us to not live to ourselves, but unto Christ. It produces in us results contrary to nature. We desire to give Him back the life we owe, "*That in His ocean depths its flow **MAY RICHER, FULLER BE***." When we see the love of Christ in the Scriptures, made real to us by the Holy Spirit, strength is given to surrender to the Lord without reservations.

GOD'S CHOICE PLAN FOR MAN

*"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. **BUT I FEAR, LEST BY ANY MEANS, AS THE SERPENT BEGUILLED EVE THROUGH HIS SUBTLETY,** so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."* [2Co.11:2-3]

God's greatest purpose in redemption is that He may obtain a Bride for His Son. Those who qualify to reign with Christ will be **"FILLED WITH ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD"** [Eph.3:19]. Paul was gripped with alarm that some were turning away from **"God's CHOICE PLAN** for their lives—that they might be made ready to become the Bride of the Lamb." He wrote this admonition to warn the saints. It is a timely warning for us today. Some may draw back, but some will yield, and God's purpose will be completed, according to His plan. We are saved by grace, but we make ourselves ready for this choice place by yielding to the Word and to the Holy Spirit.

"And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia: Salvation, and glory, and honour and power, unto the Lord our God." [Rev.19:1]

This is the **GRAND CLIMAX OF THE AGES**; the hour for which Israel, The Church and all creation has waited.

The false church must be judged before the true Bride can be manifested. After this has taken place, the cry will ring out; **"Let us be glad and rejoice and give honour to him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready"** [Rev.19:7].

All heaven will be excited. Great anticipation will be in the hearts of vast throngs in heaven. Voices will rise with high-sounding praises. It will sound like the voice of many waters and mighty thunderings. The Lord, the **OMNIPOTENT** One, will have taken the reins of the universe in His hands, so to speak. The shouts of triumph and praise will reverberate to the utmost corners of the universe. Oh, what rapture fills our hearts as we think of that **GLORIOUS DAY** which all creation is waiting for. King's daughters will be there, virgins will be assembled to witness this greatest of all weddings. **"Blessed are they which are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb"** [Rev.19:9]. It will be wonderful to be there; whether as a servant, a guest, or a part of the Bridal Company.

The Bridegroom will utter in tenderest tones, **"My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother ... The daughters (other believers) saw her and blessed her"** [SSg.6:9].

Solomon and his beloved are a type of the Lamb and his Bride. The Bride will be clothed in the fine linen of Christ's own righteousness. She will be mature (spiritually speaking) and qualified to share the inheritance with her Lord.

The **POWER** of the Gospel, the **PURPOSE** of the Gospel, the **PROVISION** of the Gospel, believed and appropriated by individuals, will cause us to fit in to God's **CHOICE PLAN**. The highest results of the Gospel will be that those who fully surrender their lives to the Lord, will share in the sublime exaltation of the heavenly Bridegroom on His throne of glory.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name." [Psa.103:1]

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