**God’s Eternal Purpose**

Eph 1:9—*Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:* 3:11*—According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord*

Dan. 1:8—*But Daniel* ***purposed in his heart*** *that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*

1. God’s Purpose reached the heart of Daniel
   1. Daniel said yes to God’s Word
   2. Daniel said no to the king’s meat and wine
      1. More die by the excess of meat and wine than poison
         1. The sin of worldliness-gluttony

Col 2:20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;

Touch not-An unclean thing. Taste not-Any forbidden meat. Handle not-Any consecrated vessel. Outward observances and rules only, instead of inward conviction and principle.

* 1. We must say yes to God’s Word
  2. We must say no to worldly things
* **It is God’s purpose for a Christian to deny his APPETITE** for the things of the world

1Jo 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

* We are in the world but not of the world

Joh 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Joh 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Joh 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

1Jo 4:5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

Jas 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

The gluttonous appetite cries, "Give, give!"never satisfied Proverbs 30:15. Paul beat down his body, 1 Corinthians 9:27. Right proportion only is to be taken to help forward God's service. More are hurt by *excess in lawful things*--than by meddling with *sinful* things. More are killed by *wine*--than by *poison*. Many make their belly their god

Php 3:19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

To this god, they pour their *drink offerings!* To this god, they offer their *meat offerings*. they are devoted to their appetite! Excess in food or drink clouds the mind, chokes holy affections, and provokes lust. The *foulest weeds* grow out of the *fattest soil*. Intemperance shortens life—*Many dig their graves, with their teeth!* Christ cautioned His Apostles,

Lu 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

We are born to higher things, than to be a *slave to our body*. What a shame is it—that the soul, that *princely* part, which sways the scepter of reason, should be enslaved to the *brutish* part!

Deny the sinful cravings of the flesh. God gave His Word, Holy Ghost, (conscience-a golden bridle to check the appetite)

* **It is God’s purpose for a Christian to deny that desire to be at ease**

Proverbs 1:32, "Ease slays the simple."

Pr 1:31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. 32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. {turning...: or, ease of the simple}

Pr 19:24 ¶ A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

The flesh is prone to sloth and softness. It is opposed to take pains for heaven. Proverbs 19:24, "A slothful man hides his hand in his bosom." He is lazy to pluck it out—though it is to lay hold on a crown! Weeds and vermin grow in untilled ground, and all vices grow in an idle, untilled heart. How can they expect to reap *a harvest of glory—*who never sowed any seed? 1 Peter 5:8, and Christians are idle? Are they like the lilies—which neither toil, nor spin? O deny your ease! Let us shake off sloth—as Paul did the viper!

Never think to be brought to heaven as the passengers in a ship are brought to their ports—while *sleeping!*

1 Chronicles 22:16, "Arise and be doing."

2Co 8:11 Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.

God puts no difference between the *slothful* servant and the *wicked* servant, "You *wicked* and *lazy* servant!" Matthew 25:26.

Php 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Lu 13:24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

Php 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Acts 19:21*—After these things were ended, Paul* ***purposed in the spirit****, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.*

1. God’s Purpose reached Paul’s spirit
   1. Paul purposed to take the gospel to the whole world
      1. Mat.28:17-20; Mk.16:14-18; I Tim.4:10-14; II Tim. 2:2; 3:10-17
         1. Mat.10:1,16; Lk.10:1-24
      2. James 1:6; Mat. 17:17-21; 21:21; I Cor.13:2; II Cor.2:14; Eph3:9

Ac 11:12 And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house:

* 1. Paul purposed to preach the gospel to and with whosoever would believe
     1. Mk.11:22-23
        1. God will speak to you by His Spirit. Acts 13:2;
        2. God will speak to you through His Word. Acts 13:5;46,47
        3. God will speak to you through a need, adversity, providence
        4. God will speak through other’s 14:26;15:40; IThes.1:6-8
        5. God will speak through strong contention. Acts 15:39
  2. Paul purposed that God would dwell in him

Eph 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, Jn.3:15-16; Acts 10:43; Rom.9:33; 10:11; I Jn. 5:1,5

2Co 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

1Jo 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

2Ch 32:2—*And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem,*

*3 He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city: and they did help him.*

*4 So there was gathered much people together, who stopped all the fountains, and the brook that ran through the midst of the land, saying, Why should the kings of Assyria come, and find much water?*

*5 Also he* ***strengthened himself****, and built up all the wall that was broken, and raised it up to the towers, and another wall without, and repaired Millo in the city of David, and made darts and shields in abundance.*

*6 And he set captains of war over the people, and gathered them together to him in the street of the gate of the city, and spake comfortably to them, saying,*

*7 Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him:*

*8 With him is an arm of flesh; but* ***with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles****. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.*

Ps 17:3—*Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing;* ***I am purposed*** *that my mouth shall not transgress.*

Upon a mountain, look not back to Sodom as Lot's wife did in the ark, fly not out again into the world as Noah's raven did; well washed,

return not again to the mire as the hog doth;

if thou be clean, run not again to thy filth, as the dog doth;

going towards the land of Canaan, think not on the flesh pots of Egypt;

marching against the host of Midian, drink not of the waters of Harod;

if thou be upon the housetop, come not down;

set thy hand to the plough, look not behind thee;

remember not those vices which are behind thee

2Ch 32:20 And for this cause Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven.

1. Strengthen your purpose through prayer
   1. What God has purposed in His Son

Ps 17:1 ¶ <<A Prayer of David.>> Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips.

Ps 140:4 Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from the violent man; who have purposed to overthrow my goings.

A believing confidence in God will raise us above the prevailing fear of man.

* He that feareth the fury of the oppressor forgetteth the Lord his Maker,

Isaiah 51:12 I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass; 13 And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?

It is probable that Hezekiah said more to this and that the people rested themselves upon what he said, not merely upon his word, but on the things he said concerning the presence of God with them and his power to relieve them, the belief of which made them easy. Let the good subjects and soldiers of Jesus Christ rest thus upon his word, and boldly say, Since God is for us, who can be against us?

Isa 14:24 ¶ The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand: 26 This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. 27 For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

Isa 19:12 Where are they? where are thy wise men? and let them tell thee now, and let them know what the LORD of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt.

Isa 23:9 The LORD of hosts hath purposed it, to stain the pride of all glory, and to bring into contempt all the honourable of the earth.

Isa 46:11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

Jer 4:28 For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black: because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it. Jer 49:20 Therefore hear the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Edom; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the inhabitants of Teman: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitations desolate with them.

Jer 50:45 Therefore hear ye the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Babylon; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitation desolate with them.

La 2:8 The LORD hath purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion: he hath stretched out a line, he hath not withdrawn his hand from destroying: therefore he made the rampart and the wall to lament; they languished together.

Ac 20:3 And there abode three months. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia.

Ro 1:13 Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

De 11:16 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;

Ps 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Ps 31:24 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

God sent an angel:

To shut the lion’s mouth for Daniel

Da 6:22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Da 3:28 ¶ Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

To slay the enemy

2Ch 32:21 And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword. 2Ki 19:35 ¶ And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

Isa 37:36 Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

Ac 5:19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,