

**Our God Given Purpose: (2 Cor 2:14-16) - 6/13/18**

**What makes you happy?**

When does the Sun Shine the brightest?

The flowers smell the best?

Like a 2 year old in a room full of puppies?

Many of us thought getting a college degree would make us happy.

Career, House, Marriage, Kids, Retirement?

***Do You Think You Will Ever Be Happy?***

***3 Levels on which People live***

**Settled:** As good as they can hope for.

Nice house, vehicle, boat, fishing, golf, etc...

They exist, they consume resources.

They have no purpose or ambition other than to exist and consume resources.

They float, take life as it comes, no direction or plan.

Live for the entertainment & comfort of the day.

**Allot of Churches can be like this.**

They feel this is as good as we can hope for.

They exist, they have settled for the way things are.

Sure they would like to improve, but they don't want to expend the energy.

Change takes effort. Change can be scary.

These churches are dying.

Is that pleasing to the Lord?

Is that the best we can hope for?

**Searching:** Trying to make something of themselves.

They are seeking the next NEW thing.

They are not satisfied where they are in life.

They are on the look out for the next opportunity to improve their life somehow.

They have their sights set on something that they think will give them a sense of fulfillment.

Bookstores are filled with books with titles such as..

*Think and Grow Rich*

*How to swim with the Sharks and not get eaten alive!*

*Success 101, Success Secrets of Atillah the Hun*

*The Idiots guide to becoming a Millionaire, ETC.*

The problem is, once they achieve that 1<sup>st</sup> level of worldly success, they realize they don't feel fulfilled.

It didn't Satisfy Them.

So they run after the Next NEW fad Diet, Bitcoin?

**A lot of Churches are like this too.**

They think a new style of Music will fix everything.

Lose the suit & Tie & preach in Jeans & T-shirt.

Get rid of the Pulpit, sit on a stool & have a TED talk

***Appealing to the Flesh, these churches grow in #s. These churches resemble an Oil Slick.***

Come in all shapes & Sizes, but are skin deep.

Is this God's Intension for His Church?

Is this pleasing to God.

Is this a Sweet Savor to God?

*Settled, Searching,...*

**Sweet Savor: Many Christians & Many churches**  
never get to this level.

We all can be, so few do.

Every church can be, but few do.

**What is a Sweet Savor to God?** Pleasing God!  
It's Finding God's **Purpose** for our life & doing it!

***Have you ever asked yourself....***

What is God's purpose for my Life?

What does God want out of my life?

If I can find out what God wants & put my life into  
achieving it, I WILL BE PLEASING TO GOD!

(Heb 10:7,9) Jesus said He came to do the Will of  
His Father!

***By Doing the will of his Will of His Father, Jesus  
pleased the Father.***

(Matt 3:17) *And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This  
is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

(Matt 17:5) *While he yet spake, behold, a bright  
cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of  
the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in  
whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

Are you searching for the next NEW thing?

Plexus, Monat, doTerra, BitCoin? Crypto Currency?

If I can find out what God wants & spend my life  
doing it, I WILL BE pleasing to God!

If I can do that, then I will have found something  
worth living for!

I will have found something that will allow me to

(1) Please God, and

(2) will be a satisfying, & lead to a fulfilling life!

I will be a Sweet Savor to God.

The Best the world has to offer is a **Searching** life.  
Always grasping, Always wanting more, but never  
arriving at the place they are trying to get to!

I want to introduce you to a couple of people who  
"Pleased God" & were a Sweet Savor to God.

**Enoch: Pleased God by Walking with God.**

(Heb 11:5) *By faith Enoch was translated that he  
should not see death; and was not found, because  
God had translated him: for before his translation he  
had this testimony, that he pleased God.*

(Gen 5:22-24) He walked with God for 300 years.

*"he pleased God."*

Should we want less for our lives?

***A Walk with God consists of 5 basic things:***

General Will of God for Everybody.

I call them the Foundational 5

Read, Pray, Church, Tithe, Witness.

This is the 1st mile of Christianity.

All pleasing starts with this.

*Some foolishly think this makes you a super Christian.*

No, its just bare bones obedience. (Lk 17:7-10)

### **David Pleased God by Serving Others for God.**

*(Acts 13:36) For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God,*

The greatest king Israel ever had.

Serving his generation did not make him a success on its own.

David found the WILL OF GOD and performed it!

Serve OTHER!

### **Our Service to Other in His Name Pleases God.**

God Takes our service others Personally.

(Matt 25:34-40)

### **Paul pleased God by Surrendering his will to God**

*(Acts 20:22-24)*

**Paul** is heading to Jerusalem; the Holy Ghost has told him he will be facing certain death.

He was not concerned about dying!

*Illus: John R. Rice being mugged.*

Paul said, Vs 24 *“None of these things move me”*

I am not shaken up, nor dissuaded!

Paul knew what his purpose was & spent his life fulfilling it!

***Paul was satisfied with his life!***

He had no regrets, He felt Fulfilled, He didn't feel cheated, or wasted.

*(vs 24) So that I might finish my course with Joy, and the ministry*

Paul is saying, I have spent my life doing what God wanted me to do!

***Paul was a Sweet Savour to God!***

### **Let's ask ourselves, What about us?**

Are we satisfied with our life?

Can you, like Paul say...

*(2 Tim 4:7) I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*

*Illus: the Dr, calls you in. The tests came back positive for CANCER?*

*The prognosis is just a few months?*

That would be a tough pill to take.

What would you say?..

*“I've served God the best I can. I still have some things I would like to do for Him, but I am satisfied with my life's work for Him.*

Can we Say That?

***Have we been a Sweet Savour to God by..***

Our Walk with Him??

Our Surrender of Our Will to His?  
Our Service to Others in His name?

***THAT IS WHERE PAUL WAS!***

Paul had pleased God by doing God's will.  
Paul had been a sweet Savor to God.

**Is Our church a Sweet Savor to God?**

Is it Pleasing God by fulfilling God's Will?

**Do you know what the purpose of the church is?**

**Why does our church exist?**

**Why are you a part of this church?**

**What will God say about this Church?**

***The Purpose of the Church is to ...***

**Exalt Christ: This is the Will of the Father!**

(Eph 1:4-6; 11-12)

(Eph 3:21) God gets his Glory through the Church!

(Heb 13:15)

***The Purpose of the Church is to ...***

**Evangelize the Lost:** Matt 28:19a

God's will is Every Person is to be saved. (2 Pet 3:9)

(Matt 5:16) An Individual Responsibility

(Phil 2:15-16) An Individual Testimony

***The Purpose of the Church is to ...***

**Enlarge the Church through Baptism:** Matt 28:19b

Every saved person is to be baptized (Acts 2:38)

Every baptized person is added as a member of the Church (Acts 2:41)

***The Purpose of the Church is to ...***

**Edify the Saints:** Matt 28:20;

(2 Tim 2:2) Equipping the Faithful to Teach others.

(1 Tim 4:13) Teach Doctrine & Application

**We edify the Saints by Exercising of Spiritual Gifts**

(Eph 4:11-16)\*12

(Vs 13-14) Church experiences Unity/Maturity

(Vs 15-26) Church experiences Strength

**We edify the Saints by One Anothering Relationship:**

(Heb 10:24-25) By our Attendance

Rom 12:10 – Kindness One to Another

Rom 13:8 - Love One Another

Rom 15:7 – Being Receptive One to Another

Rom 15:14 – Admonish One - Another

Rom 16:16 - Being affectionate One to Another

Gal 5:13 – Serve One - Another

Eph 4:32 – Being Kind & Forgiving One Another

Col 3:13 – Forbearing & Forgiving One Another

Col 3:16 – Teaching & Admonishing One Another

Every saved, baptized member of this church is to plug in and make this church all it can be for the cause of Christ!

Together we can accomplish more of God's purpose than we can separately!

*Illus: the Burning ember, the preacher went to visit a church member that he knew was unfaithful to church because he didn't think he needed it.*

*As he sat by the fire, the preacher took a coal off the fire with the tongs, and set it by itself under the hearth, after a little bit the brightly burning ember went from yellow to red, to black. Then the preacher picked it up and put it back on the fire with the other coals, and in no time it was burning yellow hot! The church member said he would be in church.*

You can't burn brightly for God by yourself.

Only with the mutual fire of the rest of us, can any of us do anything for God!

### **Is Our Church a Sweet Savor to God?**

**Have we a Settled:** Exist, consuming resources. No purpose or ambition beyond our own comfort level?

**Are we Searching:** for a new fad to make something of ourselves/church?

Do you have dreams/desires of a Ministry of your own definition.

*I would serve if you had a Harley ministry.*

**Sweet Savor:** As a church, we have to determine to fulfill God's Purpose!

**Why do we exist? What is Our Purpose?**

**What are we doing w/the church God has given us?**

**What is the sum total of our service to God going to be when it is over?**

**What will God say about us?**

**Are We a Sweet Savor to God?**

**Are we Pleasing to God.**

### **God is Going to ask 2 questions on that day**

1. What did you do with my Son, Jesus Christ?
  - a. I learned about him
  - b. I celebrated His Birthday each year
  - c. I used His name

Did we repent of our Sin & receive Him as our Savior

Did we set Him as the Central theme of our lives?

Did we enthrone Him as King of our lives?

Unless you get question 1 right, #2 won't matter!

Unless there has been a day when you were saved, there won't be a 2<sup>nd</sup> question!

It is God's General Purpose for Everyone to be saved! (2 Pet 3:9) *willing that none should perish,*

### **Question 2**

What did you do with your life?

Did you live it for God?

We can't do anything about our life before Christ!

But what about since?

We Either invest our lives in Self, or the Saviour!

If we are not fulfilling God's Purpose for Our lives,  
then it's all been for self.

**Are We a Sweet Savour to God?**

Are We Walking with God like Enoch?  
Are We Serving Others in His name like David?  
Have we surrendered our Will to Go like Paul?

**How can we be a Pleasing Church?**

Are we Exalting Christ?  
Has Our Service to God through the Local Church  
brought Him Glory?

Are We Evangelizing the Lost?  
Are we fulfilling His will to see everyone saved?

Are We Enlarging the Church through Baptism?  
Are We Edifying the Saints?

Are We a Unified Church: Jn 17:20-21  
Are We a Consecrated Church: Rom 12:1-2,  
Consecrated possessions Acts 2:44-45

Are We a Steadfast Church:  
Steadfast in its teaching Acts 2:42  
Steadfast in Fellowship Phil 1:5, 1 Jn 1:7  
Steadfast in it's Worship: Heb 10:25  
Steadfast in Prayer: James 5:16-18

Are We a Sacrificing Church: Acts 8:4, Rev 2:10  
Are We a Militant Church:

Militant in its stand against error:  
Eph 5:11; 1 Tim 6:12  
**When Obedient:** Expect Opposition  
**When Opposed:** Exemplify Christ  
Militant in its advancement of the Truth: Eph 3:10;  
Acts 5:28  
Prepare for Trials:  
Prepare for Fatigue: (Neh 4:10a)