

CALL to PRAYER - Model Prayer - "...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors..."

Ephesians 1:6-12 - Plan "C"

Intro -We were blessed this morning to hear some singing about some great & glorious things... truths of eternal and inestimable value. Our text of scripture this morning is in the middle of a long sentence (vss. 3-14) outlining the spiritual blessings believers have in Christ Jesus – (some really big truths). I was flipping through the radio stations last week and a DJ was saying he just wanted the answers to the big questions in life: 1] "*Why are we here?*" (purpose/meaning of life), and 2] "*Are we alone in the universe?*" Ephesians addresses these "big questions" and informs us that there is an eternal purpose to life and that eternal purpose is centered in an Eternal Person. Our world revolves around the sun and our existence revolves around the Son of God. Jesus Christ is the Person and Purpose of life...He is life – John 1:4 – Life & Light are found in Christ.

A Purpose A Problem A Person

A PURPOSE

- There is an overarching purpose to life
 - Our existence is not haphazard nor given to random chance and circumstance
 - Evolution says we are a cosmic accident from nothing and for nothing
 - evolution says that life is utterly meaningless - survival of the fittest
 - Deism says God made everything...set up impersonal laws to govern... he spun the top (but His hands are off / doesn't interfere) and where it stops nobody knows.
 - Life is like a roulette wheel – a directed beginning but no planned ending
 - Christianity declares an eternal purpose to life and existence.
 - There is a plan and a reason we are here. "Purpose" is precious truth
- There is a plan
 - Eph. 1:9
 - God has a will. God is not indifferent about our existence.
 - There is a reason He made us and everything else - Col. 1:16 1 Cor. 8:6
 - God's will is a mystery that has been made known to us Deut. 29:29
 - God's will has a purpose – an desired result
 - Eph. 1:11
 - God's purpose is predestined (guaranteed to happen)
 - God's predestined plan is wise "Counsel of His will"
 - God orchestrates all events according to His wise plan. Rom. 11:36
 - God's plans never fail
 - Psalm 33:10-11 Prov. 16:9 Job 42:1-2 Isaiah 46:9-11

A PROBLEM

- Have you noticed there is a problem with this life?
 - The world has problems...I have problems...I am the problem...
 - The problems of life cause questions about the purpose of life

- Are the problems of this life part of the plan/purpose of this life?
 - Part of the plan is to address the problem
- Eph. 1:7
 - Redemption is part of the reason we are here
 - Redemption comes from the language of slavery
 - A slave could be redeemed/bought and set free
 - Humanity's problem is that we have willingly enslaved ourselves
 - John 8:34 1 John 5:19
 - But God has a plan of redemption John 8:36
 - *"Redeemed how I love to proclaim it..."*
 - Col. 1:13-14
 - Forgiveness is what was purchased in blood redemption
 - Matt. 26:28 Heb. 9:22
 - Forgiveness is costly...it cost Jesus His life
 - Forgiveness is absorbing debt of another...
 - not making them pay but you paying for them
 - These two important truths (redemption & forgiveness) are tied together
 - Redemption and forgiveness are part of reason for our existence.
 - God purposed for us to be redeemed & forgiven in Christ
 - God has purposed that we live a life of redemption and forgiveness
 - God has given you problems so you can practice on others what was given to you in Jesus. Eph. 4:32
 - Are you living out your purpose?

A PERSON

- The plan/purpose and even the problems of life have their fulfilment/culmination in the Person of life.
 - Jesus is the reason for every season in life
- Plan "C"
 - God didn't have "Plan A" that failed in Adam...
 -then "Plan B" that failed with Noah and Israel...
 - God has always operated on "Plan C" CHRIST
 - An eternal purpose centered in an Eternal Person
 - Eph. 3:10-11
 - Eph. 1:10 "...summing up all things in Christ..."
 - We are not alone - *"...all things in heaven and earth..."*
- Jesus is the Person that all time revolves around
 - Eph. 1:10 - *"...the fullness of time..."*
 - Gal. 4:4-5
- There is a purpose to this life and we are not alone
 - God has a plan
 - Problems are part of the plan and the plan addresses the problem
 - All of God's plans and all of our problems point to one Person