

31. God's Purpose For Man

In the first chapter of Genesis, the very first page of the Bible, God gives us the reason why He created man. Because man has completely forgotten about that, throughout the world men and women face problems for which they don't know what the solutions are. They don't seem to find meaning and purpose in life. Well, you never find it until you come back to what God says in His word.

You know the Bible is really like a book of instructions - an instruction manual. If you buy a tape recorder, or a washing machine, or some expensive electronic gadget, along with that you will get a little booklet. This booklet is the manufacturer's instructions on how to use this particular gadget that you have bought. If you are wise, you will just follow the instructions in that booklet exactly. You won't change a single thing, because you realise what? You realise that the manufacturer knows better than you; how that product was made, how it is supposed to run. If there are certain special warnings given saying, 'Don't do this, don't plug this in here or don't put a jack into this,' I am sure you would not experiment. You would just obey because you may blow up a Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 20,000 worth of equipment. You certainly don't want to lose that much money. You would experiment with things that are cheaper, but not with something very expensive.

Now what is the value of your life? A human life is far more than 20,000 Rupees, far more than many lakhs. In fact, once Jesus said, 'What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?' In saying so, He took a balance and placed the whole world with all its wealth, all its glory, and honour on one side, and one human soul on the other side. And He said that one human soul was

31. 上帝造人的目的

创世纪的第一章，也就是《圣经》的第一页，上帝就告诉了我们祂为什么造我们。然而人类已经完全忘却了上帝的初衷，看世上遍地男男女女面对困境时的不知所措，他们根本不知道自己人生的意义和目的为何。然而，你若不知晓造物主所言，你就永远无法知晓这目的和意义。

你知道吗，《圣经》真的很像一本指导手册，一本说明书。假如你买了一件贵重的电器，总是有一份说明书在里面。这说明书是制造商告诉你如何来使用他所造的这台电器。你假如是个有智慧的人，就一定会认真按着说明去操作。为什么你会老老实实按说明操作？那是因为你了解制造商比你更了解这台电器，他知道这台电器是怎么造的，靠什么驱动。假如说明书中有一些特别强调的警告，告诉某些事情不要做，我敢保证你不会去试验的。因为你不想把一两万块的电器一下子弄坏了，一下子损失那么多钱。有些便宜的东西你可能会试着瞎鼓捣，但是贵的东西你肯定不会。

那好，现在请你告诉我，你的生命价值多少？一个人的生命是远超过两万块，或者几十万的。事实上主耶稣曾经说过，“人就是赚得全世界，却赔上自己的生命，有什么益处呢？”祂这么说，是把全世界的财富和荣耀都放在天平的一端，把一个人的灵魂放在另一端。那一个人的灵魂要更有价值，超过整个世界。因此你应该知道，自己的价值有多重。那么人有这么重的价值，为什么却糊里糊涂的，把造物主的说明书不当

heavier. He weighed more than the entire world. So you are very valuable. Then how is it that man, who is so valuable, is so careless with following his Maker's instructions when it comes to how to run his life? That is the tragedy. If you want to know why there is so much chaos in the world and why things have gotten to a real mess, here is the answer: God gave man certain instructions and he never followed them. That is the reason for confusion in the world, in individual lives, in families, and between nations.

So let us look at Genesis 1. We read here about the time when God made different things on this earth. Each day He made something new. But whenever He made any of the things, He never told us the purpose with which He made them. For example, on the first day He created light. What is the purpose? Well, we don't know. We can guess, but God never said what the reason was. The next day, He created the heavens. No purpose mentioned. The following day He created the dry lands, and the plants and the trees, no purpose mentioned there and so on. And also with the animals, the fish and the birds! But when it came to making man, finally, before He even started making man He said, "Let us make man in Our image according to Our likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea or the birds on the sky."

So we see the first purpose with which God created man was that man should show forth the likeness of God. That means if man moved around, you could see what God was like. Because God is a Spirit and invisible, God wanted His character to be manifested through a created being. Now, in an earlier study, we had considered how God had made the angels before He made man. But there is no evidence in the Bible that God made the angels in His image. No angels could manifest the likeness of God. That is a unique privilege that God gave to man. Man was made in the likeness of God to show

一回事呢？这实在是太悲哀了！假如你想知道这个世界为什么这么败坏混乱，原因就是，神给了人说明书然而人却从未认真遵守。这就是为什么个体之间，家庭之间，国与国之间，都存在着这么多的迷局和困惑。

现在我们一起来看一下创世纪的 1 章，这里我们看到神在地上造万物那个时候。每一天祂都造出许多新东西。然而任何那些东西，神都没说造它们的目的是什么。比如祂第一天造的光，为了什么？我们并不太晓得。我们可以猜测，但是上帝从来没有明确的说明原因。第二天，祂造了天，也没说明原因。下一天祂造了旱地和植物，也没说明原因……同样的，无论是动物、鱼还是鸟，祂都没说原因！然而，当祂要造人的时候，祂终于说了，“我们要照着我们的形像，按着我们的样式造人，使他们管理海里的鱼、空中的鸟、地上的牲畜和全地，并地上所爬的一切昆虫。”

所以我们看到，神造人的第一个目的，是使人有神的形像和样式。也就是说，你本该从周围的人身上看到上帝是什么样子的。上帝是灵，并非肉眼可见的，因此祂希望自己的品格能够透过被造物来彰显。我们在前面曾经提到过，上帝在造人以前曾造了天使。但是《圣经》却没有任何地方说过上帝按着自己的形像造天使。因此，天使是无法彰显神的样式的。这是上帝给人的特权，就是被按照神的形像和样式所造，从而彰显神的样式与品格。

forth God's own image and character.

Once we understand this, we would see that the whole purpose of Jesus dying for us and redeeming us was in order that we might be brought back to God's original purpose for us. Supposing we were to draw this in graphical form: think of God's purpose for man being like a straight line going slightly upwards, because God's purpose for man was progressive. That was God's purpose that man should progress in this straight line going upwards. But somewhere in the beginning of that straight line, Adam fell. So you never progress. You just dip straight down. Now let that line go downwards to a pit. What did Jesus do? He came down to the pit, where man was, and lifted him back up to that straight line.

Now man is being brought back to that straight line of God's purpose for man. So the whole purpose of God for man is not fulfilled in Jesus lifting us up from our sin and our failure. No, that is only bringing us back to the place where Adam was when he fell. It is restoring the failure of Adam; bringing man back to the place where he was before he fell. But then, now we need to understand what God's purpose is, what is the straight line? That is to reflect His likeness. So it is not enough to say that your sins are forgiven. Many Christians are just happy saying, 'Well, my sins are forgiven.' That is like saying, 'Well, God lifted me up from the pit and brought me up to the straight line.' But what about progressing along that straight line? We need to understand what that means. It means growing in likeness to Jesus Christ.

You know, when Jesus came to Earth, He didn't come only to die for the sins of the world. That is only part of His purpose in coming to Earth. His death from the cross was just an act that lasted for six hours on one day. That was it. And He died, He

我们一旦明白这个，就能了解主耶稣为我们而死，赎回我们的意义在于，将我们带回被造时上帝的初衷。假设我们要画一张图解，如果说上帝对人的目的是一条逐渐向上的直线，因为神想让人类不断进步。上帝希望人类能一直向上走。结果从一开始，亚当就跌倒了。结果一直到你这里，不但从没进步，反倒越发向下了。现在想象一下，那条一直通向无底深渊的线。主耶稣做了什么？祂下到了那深渊里，把那条线又扶正了。

这时的人类重新回到了上帝最初造人时的状态。然而主耶稣将我们从罪和失败里拉回来，仅仅如此，还并没有完全实现神的目的。那仅仅是把我们带回到亚当跌倒之前的状态而已，把人类带回到跌倒以前的状态。所以此时，我们就该好好弄清楚，上帝造我们的意义为何？那条直线是什么？那，就是彰显神的样式。因此，单单是我们的罪被赦免了，那是不够的。很多基督徒都乐于说这话，“我的罪被赦免了。”那仅仅如同说，“上帝将我从深渊里拉出来放回了直线上。”但是那向上的进步呢？我们需要明白那是什么意思。那指的是，成长得越来越像耶稣基督。

你知道吗，主耶稣来世上，并不单单是为了全世界人的罪而死。那只是祂来意义的一部分。祂在十字架上受刑仅仅是一天之中的六个小时而已。祂死了，被埋葬，三天后复活了。然而祂在世上活了 33 年，那 33 年的意义又为何？那是为了向世人展示，上帝想让我

was buried, and He rose again on the third day. But the life that He lived for 33 years, what was that supposed to demonstrate? That was supposed to demonstrate how God wanted man to live on this earth. Jesus' life was a demonstration of how God wanted man to live. So if you want to know how you are supposed to live. It is very easy. You just got to look at the life of Jesus Christ as described in the Bible. There you have not just in words, but a living demonstration.

See in the Old Testament, there is no example that God gave man. God gave commandments. Everybody knows the Ten Commandments, which is also a picture of how God wanted man to live. But it was a very faint picture- very, very incomplete. All the laws that God gave man about mutual relationships and everything else were all a faint picture. Jesus summed up the Old Testament Law with two sentences. He said the whole law can be summed up in "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind and you shall love your neighbour as yourself." In those two verses, those two sentences, the entire duty of man is summed up. But it is far better to have an example that shows us how this is to be done.

Consider if I were to try and teach you swimming. There are two ways in which I could do it. One is, I could explain to you, on a blackboard, by drawing various diagrams on how you must move your hands, how you must move your legs, etc. And then say, 'Okay, now go and jump in the river, and follow the instructions that you saw on the blackboard and swim.' You are not going to learn to swim that way. Even if you study very carefully all the diagrams I drew on the blackboard, you will still probably drown. That is a very poor way. But if I were to take you to the river and say, 'Well, now just watch me as I swim. Just do exactly what I do.' That is the way

们如何生活。主耶稣在地上的一生，告诉我们上帝想让人类如何生活。所以，假如你真想知道自己该怎么生活，那很容易，只要看《圣经》所告诉你耶稣基督的生活就可以。那里不只是文字，而是祂活生生的生命展示给你。

《圣经》的旧约经文里，上帝没有给人类一个可以完全效仿的榜样。祂给了人类诫命。知道那十条诫命的人，都知道那是神想人如何生活的画面。然而那却是非常模糊的画面，非常不完全。神给人关于彼此的关系，以及所有其它的诫命，都是非常模糊的画面。主耶稣将旧约律法归结为两条。“你要尽心、尽性、尽力爱主你的神；还有你们要爱人如己。”就这两句，总结了人类的全部职责。然而，若能有我们效法的例子，让我们看到这如何成就，才是更好的。

假设我想教你游泳，有两种方法我可以教你。第一，我在黑板上给你讲，画图，解释你该如何动胳膊，如何动腿等等。然后说，“好，现在去河里游吧，按着我在黑板上给你解释的。”这样的方法，你是很难学会游泳的，即便你非常仔细的学习每一张图解。这不是个好方法。但假如我把你带到河里，告诉你，“看好了，我怎么动你就怎么动。”这个方法就好多了。指导说明永远没有示范更清楚。

you will learn. You see instruction is never as good as example. Any amount of instruction on any subject is never as good as an example.

We could say the Old Testament was instruction. In the New Testament, we have an example. Jesus Christ demonstrated, through His life, what it means to be a human being; how we are supposed to live. When the Bible says we are not under the law, what does it mean? It means we don't need the blackboard now, because we got an example in Jesus Christ. But, if you don't have Jesus Christ as your example, then you certainly need to go back to the law. The mistake that a lot of Christians have made is that they say, 'We are free from the law. We don't need the Ten Commandments. We don't need the instructions of God.' Fine, provided Jesus Christ becomes your example. But if Jesus does not become your example, then you need the law very much so.

And so what does it mean to come under grace; to be free from the law? It means that I have now seen Jesus as my example, who lived on earth, manifesting the nature of God so perfectly. He turned around to His disciples just before He went to the cross and said, 'If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.' If you have seen the way I have lived, what I lived for, you have seen what God was like. You have seen that God is kind. You have seen that God is pure. He is holy, loving, humble, everything.

Our calling now is to show forth that same nature of God. You know what we read in Genesis 1:26. God's original plan for man was to reflect His likeness; to manifest His nature. Now that calling comes to you and me. This is why God has given us the Holy Spirit, so that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can show forth God's nature in our

我们可以这么说，旧约《圣经》就是一个指导说明，而新约《圣经》则是给我们的示范。主耶稣用祂在世的一生，为我们阐明如何做人，人类该如何生活。《圣经》说我们不再在律法之下，那是什么意思？那说的是我们不再需要黑板，因为我们有活生生的例子主耶稣基督。然而，假如你不把主耶稣当作榜样，那你就必须回到律法之下了。许多基督徒所误解的，说自己“我们不再受律法的约束了，不再需要十诫，不再需要守神的命令了。”好，那么你就该已经以主耶稣为生活的榜样了。可是，假如主耶稣并不是你生活的榜样，那么你仍然非常的需要律法。

那么在恩典之下又是什么意思？那指的是，我们看到主耶稣在地上时，将神的真像完美的展示给我们做榜样。就在祂赴十字架之前，祂回头告诉门徒们，“假如你看到我，你就看到了父。”就是说，假如你看到我是如何活着的，为了什么活着，你就看到了神是如何的。你在我身上看见神是宽容的，是完全圣洁的，是慈爱、谦卑的……

我们肩负的使命也是如此，就是要彰显神的本质。你知道我们在创世纪 1 章 26 节看到，神造人的初衷，是使人能彰显祂的样式，祂的本质。这使命就在你我身上。这也是为什么神给我们圣灵，使我们可以借着圣灵的力量，来让上帝的本质在我们的生活上彰显。

daily life.