

## 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

創世紀的第一章,也就是《聖經》的第一頁,上帝就告訴了我們祂為什麼造我們。然而人類已經完全忘卻了上帝的初衷,看世上遍地男男女女面對困境時的不知所措,他們根本不知道自己人生的意義和目的為何。然而,你若不知曉造物主所言,你就永遠無法知曉這目的和意義。

你知道嗎,《聖經》真的很像一本指導手冊,一本說明書。假如你買了一件貴重的電器,總是有一份說明書在裡面。這說明書是製造商告訴你如何來使用他所造的這台電器。你假如是個有智慧的人,就一定會認真按著說明去操作。為什麼你會老老實實按說明操作?那是因為你知道製造商比你更瞭解這台電器,他知道這台電器是怎麼造的,靠什麼驅動。假如說明書中有一些特別強調的警告,告訴某些事情不要做,我敢保證你不會去試驗的。因為你不想把一兩萬塊的電器一下子弄壞了,一下子損失那麼多錢。有些便宜的東西你可能會試著瞎鼓搗,但是貴的東西你肯定不會。

那好,現在請你告訴我,你的生命價值多少?一個人的生命是遠超過兩萬塊,或者幾十萬的。事實上主耶穌曾經說過,「人就是賺得全世界,卻賠上自己的生命,有什麼益處呢?」祂這麼說,是把全世界的財富和榮耀都放在天平的一端,把一個人的靈魂放在另一端。那一個人的靈魂要更有價值,超過整個世界。因此你該知道,自己的價值有多重。那麼人有這麼重的價值,為什麼卻糊裡糊塗的,把造物主的說明書不當一回事呢?這實

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

在是太悲哀了!假如你想知道這個世界為什麼這麼敗壞混亂,原因就是,神給了人說明書然而人卻從未認真遵守。這就是為什麼個體之間,家庭之間,國與國之間,都存在著這麼多的迷局和困惑。

現在我們一起來看一下創世紀的 1 章,這裡我們看到神在地上造萬物的那個時候。 每一天祂都造出許多新東西。 然而任何那些東西,神都沒說造它們的目的是什麼。 比如祂第一天造的光,為了什麼?我們並不太曉得。 我們可以猜測,但是上帝從來沒有明確的說明原因。 第二天,祂造了天,也沒說明原因。 下一天祂造了旱地和植物,也沒說明原因..... 同樣的,無論是動物、魚還是鳥,祂都沒說原因!然而,當祂要造人的時候,祂終於說了,「我們要照著我們的形像,按著我們的樣式造人,使他們管理海裡的魚、空中的鳥、地上的牲畜和全地,並地上所爬的一切昆蟲。」

所以我們看到,神造人的第一個目的,是使人有神的形像和樣式。 也就是說,你本該從周圍的人身上看到上帝是什麼樣子的。 上帝是靈,並非肉眼可見的,因此祂希望自己的品格能夠透過被造物來彰顯。 我們在前面曾經提到過,上帝在造人以前曾造了天使。 但是《聖經》卻沒有任何地方說過上帝按著自己的形像造天使。 因此,天使是無法彰顯神的樣式的。 這是上帝給人的特權,就是被按照神的形像和樣式所造,從而彰顯神的樣式與品格。

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

我們一旦明白這個,就能瞭解主耶穌為我們而死,贖回我們的意義在於,將我們帶回被造時上帝的初衷。假設我們要畫一張圖解,如果說上帝對人的目的是一條逐漸向上的直線,因為神想讓人類不斷進步。上帝希望人類能一直向上走。結果從一開頭,亞當就跌倒了。結果一直到你這裡,不但從沒進步,反倒越發向下了。現在想像一下,那條一直通向無底深淵的線。主耶穌做了什麼?祂下到了那深淵裡,把那條線又扶正了。

這時的人類重新回到了上帝最初造人時的狀態。然而主耶穌將我們從罪和失敗里拉回來,僅僅如此,還並沒有完全實現神的目的。那僅僅是把我們帶回到亞當跌倒之前的狀態而已,把人類帶回到跌倒以前的狀態。所以此時,我們就該好好弄清楚,上帝造我們的意義為何?那條直線是什麼?那,就是彰顯神的樣式。因此,單單是我們的罪被赦免了,那是不夠的。很多基督徒都樂於說這話,「我的罪被赦免了。」那僅僅如同說,「上帝將我從深淵里拉出來放回了直線上。」但是那向上的進步呢?我們需要明白那是什麼意思。那指的是,成長得越來越像耶穌基督。

你知道嗎,主耶穌來世上,並不單單是為了全世界人的罪而死。那只是祂來意義的一部分。祂在十字架上受刑僅僅是一天之中的六個小時而已。祂死了,被埋葬,三天后復活了。然而祂在世上活了33年,那33年的意義又為何?那是為了向世人展示,上帝想讓我們如

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

何生活。主耶穌在地上的一生,告訴我們上帝想讓人類如何生活。所以,假如你真想知道自己該怎麼生活,那很容易,只要看《聖經》所告訴你耶穌基督的生活就可以。那裡不只是文字,而是祂活生生的生命展示給你。

《聖經》的舊約經文裡,上帝沒有給人類一個可以完全效仿的榜樣。祂給了人類誡命。知道那十條誡命的人,都知道那是神想人如何生活的畫面。然而那卻是非常模糊的畫面,非常不完全。神給人關於彼此的關係,以及所有其它的誡命,都是非常模糊的畫面。主耶穌將舊約律法歸結為兩條。「你要盡心、盡性、盡意、盡力愛主你的神;還有你們要愛人如己。」就這兩句,總結了人類的全部職責。然而,若能有我們效法的例子,讓我們看到這如何成就,才是更好的。

假設我想教你游泳,有兩種方法我可以教你。第一,我在黑板上給你講,畫圖,解釋你該如何動胳膊,如何動腿等等。然後說,「好,現在去河裡游吧,按著我在黑板上給你解釋的。」這樣的方法,你是很難學會游泳的,即便你非常仔細的學習每一張圖解。這不是個好方法。但假如我把你帶到河裡,告訴你,「看好了,我怎麼動你就怎麼動。」這個方法就好多了。指導說明永遠沒有示範更清楚。

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

我們可以這麼說,舊約《聖經》就是一個指導說明,而新約《聖經》則是給我們的示範。主耶穌用祂在世上的一生,為我們闡明如何做人,人類該如何生活。《聖經》說我們不再在律法之下,那是什麼意思?那說的是我們不再需要黑板,因為我們有活生生的例子主耶穌基督。然而,假如你不把主耶穌當作榜樣,那你就必須回到律法之下了。許多基督徒所誤解的,說自己「我們不再受律法的約束了,不再需要十誡,不再需要守神的命令了。」好,那麼你就該已經以主耶穌為生活的榜樣了。可是,假如主耶穌並不是你生活的榜樣,那麼你仍然非常的需要律法。

那麼在恩典之下又是什麼意思?那指的是,我們看到主耶穌在地上時,將神的真像完美的展示給我們做榜樣。就在祂赴十字架之前,祂回頭告訴門徒們,「假如你看到我,你就看到了父。」就是說,假如你看到我是如何活著的,為了什麼活著,你就看到了神是如何的。你在我身上看見神是寬容的,是完全聖潔的,是慈愛、謙卑的.....

我們肩負的使命也是如此,就是要彰顯神的本質。你知道我們在創世紀 1 章 26 節看到,神造人的初衷,是使人能彰顯祂的樣式,祂的本質。這使命就在你我身上。這也是為什麼神給我們聖靈,使我們可以借著聖靈的力量,來讓上帝的本質在我們的生活上彰顯。

daily life.