**Living for Jesus #4- Living for His Purposes**

Our theme for this year is “Living for Jesus,” and we’ve used primarily two passages to emphasize it: Gal.2:20, *“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered himself up for me.”* And, 2Cor.5:14-15, *“And the love of Christ controls us, have concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”* According to this theme, we’ve had a lesson or two each month (usually on the second Sunday) that, hopefully, explain and develop what means to “Live for Jesus.” We began with the *Prerequisite of Becoming Dissatisfied with Living for Self* (refocusing our *value system* and *motivations* from the *earthly* to the *heavenly* from Matt.5 and Jas.4). Then also noted the importance of *Crucifying Self, Being Born Again,* and *Living a Resurrected Life* in the months that followed. This morning we will consider “Living for His Purposes.”

The difference between a *“disciple”* and an *“apostle”* includes both *direction* and *purpose.* A “disciple” *follows* and *learns,* cf. Matt.28:19-20; while an *apostle* is *sent* to *teach,* cp. Matt.4:19; Luke 11:49; and cf. Acts 13:2-4. In either application, one dedicates himself to the Master’s purposes- either of *following* and *learning,* or be *sent* and *teaching.* So, to “Live for Jesus,” we must dedicate ourselves to living for *His purposes* rather than our own. But what were or are Jesus’ purposes, *generally* or more *specifically?*

**I. Jesus *General* Purpose, Luke 19:10; *“to seek and save that which is lost.”***

Certainly, we are not *the Savior of the world*, nor were we born to such a mission. But, can we really call ourselves His “disciples” without adopting His purpose, cf. Col.1:26-29?

**II. Jesus *Specific* Purposes: (as gleaned from His own statements of purpose)**

1. **To *Do the Will of the Father,* John 5:30; 6:38-39**

Jesus’ *will* was only to *do the will of the Father,* 5:30; the *Father’s will* was for all to *hear, believe,* and have *life,* 5:22-27; and to *lose none,* 6:39.

To *live for Jesus’ purposes* we must adopt the *will of the Father* for the *salvation* and *preservation* of *all,* cp. Heb.12:12-16.

1. **To *Fulfill the Law,* Matt.5:17**

He came to *“fulfill”* (*pleroo-* to *fill* or *complete*) the Law; to be its intended goal, Rom.10:4; Gal.3:24-25.

To *live for His purposes* we must adopt this mission of being the *fulfillment* (*intended goal*) not of the Law, but His Law, cf. Matt.4:23; Eph.3:8-10.

1. **To *Bring the Sword,* Matt.10:34**

Though Jesus was a *peaceful* person, He did not come to *bring peace,* but a *sword-* an instrument of division. The *sword* which He brought was *His gospel,* Matt.4:23; Luke 16:16; Eph.6:17. It divides *families,* Matt.10:35-39 by *laying bare* the *heart’s thoughts* and *intentions* (cf. Heb.4:12) as either open and receptive to truth, Acts 2:37-41 or closed and rebellious to it, Acts 7:54,57-58.

To *live for Jesus’ purposes* we must wield *His sword of Truth* to the same end- the salvation of souls regardless of the personal/family consequences, Matt.10:39.

1. **To *Provide Abundant Life,* John 10:10**

As *the good Shepherd,* Jesus came to *provide life- abundantly,* to *the sheep.* He does so by being a *door* through which they *enter salvation,* v.9a; by providing *continued pasturage/sustenance,* v.9b; and by *protecting* them from the *thief/wolf* who desires to *steal, kill,* or *destroy,* v.10; even to the point of *laying down His life,* v.11.

To *live for Jesus’ purposes* we must become *a door* through which others *enter the fold,* 2Tim.2:2; work to *provide continued pasturage,* Eph.4:11-16; *protect* one another from *wolves/thieves,* Matt.7:15-21; Rom.16:16-17; even to the point of *self-sacrifice,* 1John 3:14-18.

**Conclusion**

**In order to *“live for Jesus,”* we must be willing to live for the same purposes for which He came and lived:**

* **To do the will of God;**
* **To fulfill God’s Law;**
* **To bring and wield the Sword of Truth;**
* **To provide abundant life.**

**Will you *“live for Jesus”* in these ways?**