

A scenic view of a canyon with layered rock formations and green vegetation. The canyon walls are composed of reddish-brown and tan rock, showing distinct horizontal strata. The valley floor is filled with lush green trees and shrubs. In the foreground, a large, dark green pine tree stands on the right side. The sky is a pale, overcast grey.

WHY DID JESUS COME?

"I am come that they might
have life, and that they might
have it more abundantly."

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Why Did Jesus Come?

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Why Did Jesus Come?

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INTRODUCTION

This is an excerpt from my blog:
www.pauldeneuiministries.blogspot.com

Thursday, January 9, 2014

I received a phone call from a resident's husband a few days ago. She had been moved to a different nursing facility and he wanted me to know where she was. Then he asked me if I could come and see her right away. I was going to be in her area that afternoon. He said she was not doing well and wanted me to come. I had a morning service at 10am and an afternoon service at 3pm, so I had some time in between to visit with her.

While I was eating lunch, I received another phone call from the husband wondering when I would be there. He said he was already there. He seemed quite anxious for me to come. I told him I was 30 miles away. I was through eating and would get on the road immediately.

It was a new facility for me, tucked away in an older part of town. He had told me her room number, so I walked right in and went to her room. The door was closed. The nurses said they were doing some routine bed checks and I would be able to go in soon. I waited for about 10 minutes and then the door opened and her husband came out. He was glad to see me and ushered me in. I saw a

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cramped room with 6 beds. All the residents were on ventilators and vital monitors, not much different than an intensive care unit. Her bed was next to the window. She was looking out and crying. When she saw me she turned her head and smiled. That is all she could do, turn her head. The doctors diagnosed her with MS several years ago. Last year she remodeled her home. Eight months ago, she was still driving her car. Today all she could do was turn her head.

She was moved to this facility because it's closer to home, where her husband is. He is a disabled veteran. His back is messed up so he can't sit to drive for very long. He can't stand for very long either. But even with all of that, he comes to see her several times a day. You could see they are very much in love. He said he had to get up and move around a little bit, but would be back. He wanted me to spend some time with her.

She still has feeling throughout her body, but she cannot move anything but her head, and that is just rolling her head on the pillow from one side to the other. I asked her if it would be okay to hold her hand. She continued to cry and said "yes". Even though she could not squeeze my hand, she could feel me hold her. Many residents are never touched. It is something we all need. It gives us a sense that someone cares.

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Thinking about our conversation that day, these are some of the things I remember hearing her say. *I'm scared . . . No one comes to see me except my husband. . . I lay here for hours and days staring out the window. . . The doctors say there is no hope. . . Sometimes I want to be healed, other times I just don't want to be here anymore. . . I've told my husband to find someone else. . . I get angry at God and wonder "why?"* We talked for about 1/2 hour and then prayed together. Her husband came in shortly after that and the three of us talked for a while. Then I asked them if we could all hold hands and pray. I told them that I would come to see them every time I come to town. That would be twice a month. We hugged and I left.

After I got to my car I just sat for a while and cried. I told God I didn't feel like I was much of a blessing in there. What could I do to be a better help?

Sometimes our thinking is not right. When things go wrong, we have a tendency to blame God and ask "why?" In John 10:10 Jesus said, "It's the thief who comes to steal, to kill, and to destroy." Then he said, "I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly." God is the answer, not the problem. The thief or Satan is the problem.

We live in a world that blames God when things go wrong. We hear that God is in control. So no matter what happens it's because of God. That's

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wrong thinking. The Bible says Satan is the god of this world. It's Satan, who steals, kills, and destroys. It also says that as Christians, we have been given authority over him. That is part of the battle, right there - to understand and keep that straight in our minds. God is the answer, not the problem.

I was reminded of a book I'd started writing, but not finished titled "Why Did Jesus Come?" One of the reasons Jesus came was to get our thinking straight, to get our thinking right. To be very clear that God is good and Satan is evil. I need to finish that book!

So I sat in the car for a few more minutes and then saw by my watch, it was 2:30pm, just enough time to get to my 3:00pm service. We must remember, God is Good, all the time.

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CHAPTER 1

Jesus Came To Bear Witness To The Truth

Why did Jesus come to Earth? Surely He had other things He could have done. Some say that Jesus came to show us how to be good. Some say he was a great teacher. Others have differing opinions. But, what does the Bible say?

The Word reveals several answers to the question, why did Jesus come? In this book we will discuss four of these answers. I believe these should be the foundation of our everyday thinking. This has the potential to change the way we live. Life is not always fair, but God is always good. When times get tough, and they will, what will you believe?

Reason number one:

Jesus came to bear witness to the truth.

John 18:37-38

37 Pilate therefore said to Him, Are You a king then? Jesus answered, You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.

38 Pilate said to Him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, I find no fault in Him at all.

Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?” When my kids were young they would ask the same question. I would say, “Tell the truth.” And they would reply, “What is truth, Daddy?”

What is truth? What would you say? It is not a lie. It is saying things like it is. Truth is what is true. Truth is what is right. It is not what is wrong. The Bible says Jesus is the truth. It says God's Word is truth.

In John 14:6 Jesus said He was the truth.

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John 14:6-10

6 Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.

8 Philip said to Him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.

9 Jesus said to him, Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

Jesus did not say He was the Father. He talked of Himself and the Father as different personalities, different beings. However, in verse 9, He said, If you've seen me you've seen the Father. He is so exactly like the Father, to see one is like seeing the other.

Watching Jesus in action reveals as much to us about God the Father as if we were watching the

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Father Himself. Why? Because Jesus said, “If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father.”

Jesus said He was born that He should bear witness to the truth.

What is truth? Or more accurately, who is truth? Who is the personification of truth? Who has never lied or deceived anyone? Jesus.

**The world did not know
and most people still do not know
what God is like**

Jesus said this is one of the reasons He was born, so the world would know what God is like. Jesus came to be a witness, to bear witness to the truth. Every act Jesus did allow us to see God the Father in action and to get acquainted with Him. He let us know God is not mean, or some sort of weird creature. He is gracious, compassionate, and loving. He is a God of love, a God of perfection. He is the very definition of perfection.

Jesus said this is one of the reasons; He was born, so He could bear witness to the truth.

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Exact Image

Hebrews 1:1-5

1 God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets.

2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

5 For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son"?"

Jesus is the express image of God's person (verse 3).

Strong's Concordance says the word translated *express image* means the exact copy.

W. E. Vine's Greek dictionary says it is the fact of

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complete similarity which this word stresses.

Let me share a story.

Back in the 80's my wife and I had a Bible study/prayer group in our home. We became very close to one of the women who attended that group. Pat was an awesome prayer warrior. She also liked working with ceramics and had a ceramics shop in her home. I was curious about ceramics and thought I would look into it as a possible hobby. I remember going to her house one day to see if she could help me get started with something simple to make. As I was looking at all of the ceramics that she had made, I noticed two statues, side by side, identical. That fascinated me because I thought one of the reasons for making ceramic items was to be unique, to be different. She could see that I was looking at those two items and asked me if I could tell any difference between the two. I couldn't so I said, "No, how did you do that?" She was thrilled that I asked and began to tell me the story.

She saw the original in a store. It was a statue of what someone thought Jesus might have looked like. It was a beautiful statue. She wondered if she would be able to make a duplicate so close that no

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one would be able to tell the difference between the two. She had a plan. She bought the statue, brought it home, and used a liquid latex compound to create a mold. She brushed on the liquid latex with a brush, applying several coats, letting each coat dry before applying the next. Then, she cut a slit in the base of the dried latex. She pulled the latex mold off of the original statue. Now she had a perfect mold of the original. She poured plaster-of-paris into the mold, being very careful not to warp the mold. After the plaster of paris dried, she cut the rubber latex away from the plaster. Pat had an exact copy of the original. Then she fired it. The next step was to use the right paint. She said she had been doing this long enough that it wasn't difficult to pick the paints and the colors. After painting it, she fired it again. "That's it", she said. "What you see is an exact copy of the original."

The reason she made the copy was to explain to others what I'm explaining to you. Jesus said, "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father." Pat would use those statues to say, 'If you've seen this copy you've seen the original. You see they really are two different statues. But when you look at the copy you see all of the characteristics of the original.'

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The fact of complete similarity

The NIV translates this “the exact representation of His being”.

Would you like to know God? Would you like to know what He is like? Jesus Christ of Nazareth, when He walked the earth, was an exact representation of the being of God. Exact. Not differing in a few minor ways, but exact. Jesus is an exact representation of God's being.

Look at 2 Corinthians 4:4, which tells us the same thing.

2 Cor 4:4

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Jesus is the image, or exact representation, of the Father. He is the exact likeness of God the Father.

Vine's Greek Dictionary says, Jesus is essentially and absolutely the perfect expression and representation of God the Father.

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John 12:49

49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

John 10:37

37 If I am not acting as my Father would, do not believe me. NEB

The things that people say make it clear they do not understand these verses. If you understand that Jesus showed us exactly what the Father is like - the words He spoke were the Father's words, the actions He took were the Father's actions - then you *cannot* declare it is *not* God's will to heal all. Or say something like, "God may not be interested in our finances." Or, pray "if it be thy will" because we can never know what His will is.

Why did Jesus feed the people when they were hungry? Why did Jesus heal all who came to Him? One main reason was to let the world know what God is like. To let us know what kind of character and nature the Father has.

It is not the will of God for people to suffer. It is not the will of God for people to go without.

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It is the will of God for people to be forgiven of their sins, to be in right standing with God, to have their needs met, and to be made whole.

Jesus said this was the purpose for which He was born, to bear witness to the truth. Jesus came to earth to let you know that God is not looking for a reason to “get you”. He loves you and wants to help you.

John 8:29

29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.

Jesus always did the things that pleased God. Not once in a while - always. Jesus did not do things just acceptable to the Father, but everything Jesus did *thrilled* the Father. Each time He healed someone, the Father was thrilled about it.

In effect, Jesus was saying, “Philip, you have been with me for years. You watched me every day. You saw me in all types of circumstances. Did you not realize all I did was the Father's will? Each time you saw Me act, you saw the action the Father would have taken if He were here. Do you not

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understand, Philip? I am the exact representation of God the Father.”

Everything Jesus said, everything He did, was not just acceptable to God, but was the exact words, the exact action, the exact attitude the Father would have had in the same situation, *exactly*.

When the world understands this, masses will turn to Jesus. When the world understands the love and compassion of the Father, they will run to Jesus.

Jesus Does Good

Acts 10:38

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Jesus went about doing good and healing all. Of all who came to Him, Jesus never turned anyone away. He never told anyone they had to stay sick.

The Word says, ‘for God was with Him’. God the Father was with Jesus in every word He spoke. He was with Him in every action. God was anointing

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Him. It was the power of God and the wisdom of God, which caused Jesus to do what He did.

Jesus went about doing good things -- not bad things. When the Bible says good, it means GOOD.

When some people read the bible they think: *That may not mean good like I think about good. It may seem bad to me, but it might be good to God. He might be teaching me something through this, because God's ways are much higher than mine.*

When the Bible says good it means good, like you would think of good. The Bible was written to you, not to God. It is written in human language.

The people thought what Jesus did was good. He did not go about doing bad, He went about helping people. He blessed them. He set people free from their afflictions. He raised people from the dead. Jesus went about doing things that thrilled people. That's why they followed Him.

(The religious leaders were not thrilled with what Jesus did. They were afraid of losing their position of leadership and influence with the people.)

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Great multitudes followed Jesus. They went out into the wilderness walking for two or three days to be where He was. They were so thrilled about Jesus that they would forget about food and water. They never thought about where or what they would eat because they were so caught up with what Jesus was doing. He could hardly get people to leave. They liked Him.

God anointed Jesus, Who went about doing things which thrilled people, people who were just like you and me.

When the Bible says good, and the thought hits you that it may not mean good, it's the devil's lie. The devil may tell you God means it for good. For example: to get run over by a truck, go bankrupt, or have your family die of disease, does not seem good - but, and here is the devil's lie: God probably meant it for good - so you will turn to Him or learn something.

That is not God's way of thinking, or the teaching of the Bible. In such situations, some people have turned to God, but more have turned away from God and cursed Him. You cannot credit evil events for people turning to God. God was there all

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the time. But, whenever people do turn to God, He accepts them and is thrilled.

Rom 2:4

4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

It is the goodness of God that leads people to repentance. God surely hates teaching that says He uses bad things to draw people to Him, and that He teaches Christians by using evil to cause them to suffer.

Some say, people do get saved after experiencing such bad things. Yes, that is true. God loves us and wants the best for us through those tough times. He is the answer, not the problem. Some have been saved and will go to Heaven. But many are so scared of God that they probably will not be a positive witness for Him here on earth.

Wrong teaching makes you afraid or scared of God. Then you will not love Him, or serve Him out of love.

We need to get rid of our “stinkin’ thinkin’”

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The world will not be won to Jesus Christ or receive the blessings of God as long as they have a wrong image of what God is like.

Many are not interested in God because they have a wrong opinion of Him.

We need to quit thinking religiously and let God bless us like He did the children of Israel in the Old Testament. When they believed in Him, they won their battles, they were victorious, they were successful, and they had rain for their crops, when other people did not. Because of that, people from other countries wanted to serve their God.

It is supposed to be like that with us, also. God wants to be blessing you so much -- not hurting you so much -- that you are a light to the world.

The leper came to Jesus, questioning His willingness to heal him. I like what Jesus did. He stretched forth His hand to the leper, a man with a dreaded disease, and He said, "I will."

Matt 8:2-3

2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me

clean.

3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

There was another incident where a father brought his son to Jesus

Mark 9:22-23

. . .but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.

23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

He settled it for all time and eternity. It is God's will for people to be healed. We must believe the right things.

Is it God's will to heal you? A leper already asked Jesus about healing and He said it was His will. A father asked Jesus for his son. Jesus response was yes. He was not speaking for Himself. He was saying what the Father would say. He was speaking the will of the Father.

What is the will of the Father today? If He is the same Father as then, and He does not change, then His will is the same for you today. And it is!

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Jesus said, “I am the truth.” He said He came to bear witness to the truth -- the truth of what God is really like.

Pray this prayer:

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son. Thank you for revealing what you are like by speaking and working through Jesus. I know that to know more about you all I have to do is look to Jesus. He is the exact image of you. I never have to question your will again. Because Jesus is the truth of who you are. Thank you, in Jesus’ name, amen.

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CHAPTER 2

Jesus Came To Seek And To Save That Which Was Lost

Luke 19:10

*10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save
that which was lost.*

John 3:5-7

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee,
Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he
cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that
which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born
again.

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John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

God is stating a truth here, "Ye must be born again". He is saying without Jesus we are lost. We are in the dark and do not have the ability to find our way home. The reason God sent His Son was to show us the way home, through Him.

Reason number two:

Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost.

People are dead in trespasses and sins, dead spiritually. This death means separation from God.

Eph 2:1

2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

We were dead. We were lost. But, through Jesus, we can find our way home, home to the family of God. We can have life in Him. Jesus alone came that people might have eternal life.

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John 14:6

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 5:26

26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

Jesus gave His life, as a sacrifice for us, so all humanity could, by God's grace, receive the gift of God and come back home.

What is the gift of God? Romans 6:23 says it is eternal life.

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 John 4:9

9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

The Phillips translation says, "To give us life through Him."

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The New English Bible says, “He sent His only Son into the world to bring us life.”

We did not have life before Him. Jesus came to bring us what we did not have.

Jesus redeemed us through His death, burial, and resurrection as our substitute.

God sent His only Son into the world to bring us life. To bring us home. But, we must accept it. We must receive it. A gift is not something you can earn. It can only be received. It is a gift.

The Bread Of God

John 6:33

33 “For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

Jesus speaks of Himself as the bread of God.

Wade's translation says, . . . *not only descends out of Heaven, but also imparts life to the world.*

John 6:51 *51 “I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he*

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will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

Jesus is the living bread which came down from Heaven. Heaven is where life is, because that is God's realm. Life was not available on earth, because all men were dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:5). You could say the light had gone out. There was no life. There was no longer any spiritual life on earth. There was no way home.

One translation says, *The bread which I will give to bring the world to life is my flesh.*

Jesus is the living and life imparting bread that descended out of Heaven. If you partake of Jesus, or receive Jesus, you partake of something which gives you life.

Jesus said that is why He came: so people could have life and come back to God, find their way home. What kind of life? Everlasting life, life in your spirit, life on the inside of you, eternal life. It is the kind of life God has, the kind of life which is in Heaven.

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Jesus did not say that He came so people could get along a little better. No, He came to seek and to save that which was lost, to lift us out of death and into life. To give us the same life He has in Himself and the same life the Father has, to bring us into the family of God. That is the reason Jesus came.

Let me share another story with you

Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. I remember a time when I was working at a large ministry. I was on the grounds crew at the time, caring for the grass and flowers on the property. It was payday. I remember receiving my check from my boss and putting it in my back pocket. At the end of the day I went home, emptied my pockets and the check wasn't there. I spent a considerable amount of time looking for it. I looked all over in the car, outside and around the car, on the driveway. I went all through my clothes pockets again. We were living paycheck to paycheck and when that happens, you can't lose a check. After looking and relooking, I realized it wasn't there! I said, "Lord, I have to find that check. I don't know where it is, but I know you do. I need your help." I remembered getting the check from my boss and

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putting it in my back pocket. I couldn't remember taking it out or putting it anywhere else. It should have still been in my back pocket, but it wasn't. As I meditated, I had what might have been called an open vision or an open dream. I saw myself picking up trash in front of the church. I was using a riding mower with a trailer behind. I saw myself getting off the mower and walking around in the front of the church. I was picking up trash. I picked up so much trash I couldn't carry it all to the trailer, so I stuffed my pockets with it. Then I saw myself going back to the trailer and emptying my pockets into the trailer. I knew exactly where my paycheck was. It was in the trailer with all the trash. By now the building I worked out of would be locked. Security guards were there, but I didn't know if they would let me in. The cart was in the building. I'm telling this story because Jesus said, "The son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." My paycheck was lost and I was going to seek and to save that which was lost. I drove back to work and contacted the security guard. I told him my situation and that I knew exactly where my paycheck was. It wouldn't take but a couple of minutes to go into the building and come back out of the building with my paycheck. He said the only way that I could do that was to go

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in with him on his scheduled route. If it didn't take long, and I stayed with him, we could do it. Fortunately, I had not dumped the trash into the trash bin at the end of the day. The trash was still in the back of the trailer. I started looking through the trash and there it was my paycheck. I put it in my pocket, thanked the security guard and I was on my way.

I think about Jesus and how he came to earth knowing just exactly what to do. That's how it was with me. So when we see this verse, the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost, the Godhead had a plan. They knew what needed to be done. They knew that sin had to be dealt with. Jesus paid the price for sin. One of the things that he came to do was to "seek and to save that which was lost". The only way to bring mankind back home, back to the family of God, back to a relationship with God, was through the blood sacrifice at the cross. I knew what I had to do to get my paycheck back. I knew the steps that had to be taken. I had to take those steps in order to get my paycheck back. Jesus knew what he had to do in order to get his family back. Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost.

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Two Groups Of People

1 John 5:11-12

11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

There are two groups of people, those who have life and those who do not have life. I am not talking about existence. Everyone exists somewhere. Everyone who has ever lived on this planet still exists somewhere. The question is where. We are in two categories, those who have eternal life and those who do not.

Those who do not receive Jesus, the Son of God, as their Lord and Savior – do not have life. John 14:6 says He is the only way. If you reject Jesus, you are rejecting eternal life; you allow the devil to continue being your master. There is only one Source of life. His name is Jesus!

Ann and I love to travel, but after a while, it's always good to come home. Come home to Jesus!

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There is only one answer. There is only one bread from Heaven. Only one person came from Heaven to bring life to the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. If you receive Him, you receive life. You'll be coming home. If you reject Him, you remain dead spiritually.

If you are seeking a peace that is found only through a personal relationship with a loving God, then you are at the right place. God is ready and willing to help you – right here, and right now.

Pray this prayer:

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, *“Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* (Acts 2:21) I am calling on You. I repent of my sins. Jesus, come into my heart and be Lord and Savior of my life. Thank you that you took my sins to the cross for me. Romans 10:9-10 says, *“If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”* I do that now. I confess that Jesus is my Savior and my Lord. I believe in my heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. Thank you Lord, I Am Saved! Amen

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All through the book of Acts, when people accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, the disciples made sure they knew about the Holy Spirit and were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4,8

4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 8:14-17

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Acts 9:17

17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 10:44-46

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. . .

Acts 19:2-6

2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that

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they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Jesus said, “The Holy Spirit would be our comfort and our guide.” In Mark 16:17 Jesus said, “*And these signs shall follow them that believe. . . they shall speak with new tongues.*”

I'd like to share with you how I was filled with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking with other tongues. My experience was a little different but I think it will be helpful. If you truly have a heart for God, and you believe that God is a good God, that He's not going to give you anything bad or evil, you can easily receive. You see, if you believe that God might give you something bad to teach you something, well, we don't want bad things so we may not open ourselves to everything that God's got. If you truly believe, according to the Word of God, that God is a good God, that His desire for you is to have good things, that He'll not withhold anything from you, that the only thing that

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He has to give you is good, I believe that you will receive.

Here's my story of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

This goes back to the early 70's. I was living in Des Moines, Iowa, going to my dad's church, Calvary Baptist Church. I had a really close friend in that church, Larry. Larry and I were looking forward to going to a men's retreat. It was our yearly men's retreat sponsored by our church denomination. It must have been in the fall, because as I recall the evenings were cool. There were several men from our church who were going. I remember it was at Dayton Oaks Camp, north of Des Moines. I have a lot of good memories of Dayton Oaks.

We had finished our first evening session at the camp, so Larry and I went back to our cabin. There were several men staying in our cabin. We weren't tired at all. We had a real heart for God and wanted all that God had for us. We knew that God was a good God and that He had more for us, we just didn't know what it was. It was a cool night as we walked back to our cabin. We didn't go back to our cabin to go to bed. Like I said, we were not tired. We went back to pick up some blankets and

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flashlights. We were heading out to a vesper point or to find some place in the woods where we could just press into God. We wanted all God had for us. And so, we walked down a trail using our flashlights. It was totally dark. We found a vesper point. This place had benches that had been made out of logs. It had an old cross, made out of two large branches, that was suspended between two trees by a cable. It had a fire pit. We could see all this with our flashlights. We decided to lay down on the ground, cover ourselves with our blankets, get our Bibles out, use our flashlights, and just press into God. We started reading. Larry and I took turns reading back and forth. After we had read for a while, I remember Larry saying, “Paul, are you tired? You’re just not making any sense. I can’t understand what you’re saying.” I said, “I’m fine, I’m just reading.” Then I would start over. I’d read for a little while and then Larry would say it again, “Paul, are you okay? Maybe you’re just getting too tired. Maybe we ought to go back to the cabin. You’re just talking gibberish.” I said, “No, I don’t feel tired. I’m just fine. Let’s keep reading.” And so, the third time the same thing happened. Larry said, “Are you okay? You’re just not making any sense.” Well, by that time, we were into the second chapter of the book of Acts. We hadn’t planned

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that. We just opened the Bible to the New Testament and started reading. Here we were, of all places, the book of Acts. It was talking about the 120 in the upper room. They were all together because Jesus wanted them to be filled with the power of God. It said, “The Spirit of God came upon them, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues.” We looked at those scriptures and then we looked at each other, and wondered, *is it possible that that’s what’s happening to us? Could we be experiencing the same thing as in the book of Acts?* Yes, we were. That night Larry and I were filled with the Holy Ghost. We stayed there for a long time, basking in the Glory of God. We continued to speak that way and pray that way, and the more we pressed in, the more it bubbled up on the inside of us. Oh, what a night it was! So, that’s how we were filled with the Holy Ghost. I’m telling this story because I truly believe that if you have a heart for God, if you want all God’s got for you, you can receive this easily, too. Being filled with the Spirit of God, with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, is something that God wants you to have. This is an experience for all believers.

I’m telling you, if that had not happened, there are

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many things that I'm doing today that I wouldn't be doing. There are places that I've gone, there are things I've experienced, and there are healings I've witnessed, people who have received from the power of God, who would not have received. So, that night was just an amazing night! We stayed there, right there, for quite some time. We just prayed in the Spirit.

We were filled with the Holy Ghost and began praying in other tongues - not because we had crossed all our "t's" and dotted all our "i's", but because we were hungry. If you're hungry, you can receive just as easily.

Pray this prayer:

Heavenly Father, I am a believer. I am Your child, You are my Father and Jesus is my Lord. I believe with all my heart that Your Word is true. Your Word says if I will ask, I will receive the Holy Spirit. So, in the Name of Jesus Christ, I am asking You to fill me to overflowing with Your precious Holy Spirit. Jesus, baptize me in the Holy Spirit. I believe that I now receive and I thank You for it. I believe the Holy Spirit is within me and, by faith, I accept it. Now, Holy Spirit, rise up within me as I praise God. I fully expect to speak with other

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tongues, as You give me the utterance.

Begin giving sound to the expressions in your heart.
Speak and hear the Holy Spirit speaking through
you.

Rejoice! You've just been baptized in the Holy
Spirit! You've been endued with power. Hallelujah!

CHAPTER 3

JESUS CAME TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL

1 John 3:8

8. . . For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

The Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil. Did Jesus accomplish His mission? If He did, then the works of the devil have been destroyed.

It is worthwhile to look at the word - destroy. We normally think it means to annihilate or put out of existence. As you look at other translations of the Bible, you see that here, it means to reduce to a

zero, or to bring to nothing, or to render ineffective, or to make harmless.

Reason number three:

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.

And by that: to save, or deliver, mankind from the devil's control.

After an enemy is defeated in war, at the signing of a peace treaty, the defeated general is still there signing the treaty. His authority for war has been reduced to a zero. However, if you are foolish enough to loan him your gun, or somehow return his power and authority that is your own fault. So it is with the devil.

Jesus has already forced the devil to bow his knee. Jesus defeated him, disarmed him, and left him helpless and harmless against you. If you allow that lying deceiver to fake you out and make you believe a lie that opposes the Word of God, then he will steal, kill, or destroy you with it.

God sets before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore you should choose life.

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Deut 30:19

19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

Why do so many people not choose life and blessing? The main reason is wrong thinking and wrong believing. They do not know the Word of God and the God of the Word.

Hebrews 2:14

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

Again, the word ‘destroy’ in this verse has the same meaning. Jesus came to make the devil harmless and ineffective, to defeat him and reduce him to a zero. Rotherham's translation says to paralyze him.

You are to rule over a defeated enemy, not serve under him.

Most Christians, because of ignorance, have been serving under him. They let the devil push them

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around. They allow sickness, poverty, bankruptcy, family problems, strife, and fear to come into their life. They are suffering under the devil's attack.

You have been lifted up over your old master Satan, and you should rule over him. Jesus defeated him for us.

Phil. 2:10

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

We are in the earth. At the name of Jesus, Satan must bow. The Bible does not say we have authority over other individuals. God has created mankind to be choosers. We do not have authority over other people. Jesus came to destroy, or bring to zero, the works or the authority of the devil. In the name of Jesus, he must bow.

At this point it will be very helpful to understand our position in Christ. When I was in Bible school, I remember learning to pray some of the prayers that the apostle Paul prayed over the church. Let's look at Ephesians chapters 1 and 2.

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These prayers can be very effective when you pray them for yourself or others. I have underlined every place where you can insert your own name.

Eph 1:15-23, 2:1, 4-6

15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

The prayer begins here:

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

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22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Yes, as Christians, we are seated together with Christ in heavenly places. That is our position. If Satan is under the feet of Jesus, than he is under our feet. That is one of the reasons He came.

Satan is in the business of doing just 3 things;

1. Stealing
2. Killing
3. Destroying

He does this through persistence and deception.

Why Did Jesus Come?

Rev 12:9

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world

John 10:10

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy

1 Peter 5:8-9

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith,

John 8:44

44 . . . He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

James 4:7

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Jesus came to defeat the works of the Devil.

Here is another story to get a better understanding of defeating the works of evil.

I remember when my family moved to Minot, North Dakota. My dad was a pastor and had just taken a different church. The church was in Minot. I finished the 5th grade in Albert Lea, Minnesota and would be starting 6th grade in Minot. We drove to Minot that summer. I had never seen such flat, barren land in all my life. I remembered seeing tumbleweeds blowing across the road for the first time. I remember seeing a water tower a long way off and checking the mileage to see how far away it was. When we got to the water tower we had driven 35 miles. After we moved and settled into the parsonage, I started meeting kids in the neighborhood. I discovered the kid right across the street, and one house over, was the bully of the neighborhood. I've got to be honest with you; I really didn't know how to defend myself. I was afraid of him. It doesn't take very long for a bully to know who's afraid of him. I was afraid of him and he knew it. He would do everything he could to try and pick a fight. My first year in Minot was my last year in grade school, 6th grade. I remember one particular day I had come home for lunch. While I was home, this bully came to the front door and

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knocked. My dad answered. The bully asked him if I could come outside so he could beat me up. He was bold and mean. Dad said, "No". Then I had to figure out how to get back to school. Because I knew he had it out for me. Well, a couple of years later when I was in junior high, we were in the same gym class. We had 8 weeks of wrestling. One day the coach put him and me together for a match. I was petrified. Then I realized this was it! I needed to win this match. I needed to beat him here and now. To this day I can't tell you what I did, but I can tell you how it ended. I was on top and had him in a pile-driver. He was yelling and screaming, but I wasn't about to let him go. The coach had to pry me off. I never had a bit of problem with him after that. Others who knew me and used my name didn't have a problem either. Really, it made him angrier than ever before. He knew he had been defeated. He went after those who were afraid of him, but he didn't come after me again and he didn't come after those who were close to me.

That's how it is with the devil. He knows he's been defeated. He is very angry, and if he can steal, kill, and destroy he will.

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When we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and we come into the family of God, we have every right to use the name of Jesus, and the blood of Jesus. Satan has no legal right to mess with us, because we are in the family of God. Jesus defeated him. He has no right to come against us, although he will if we let him.

Remember Revelation 12:11

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony;

If we come against him with the name of Jesus, and with his blood, we can stop him in his tracks every time. We must remember who we are in Christ.

Pray this prayer:

Dear Father, now I know it's not you who is doing all the evil in the world. Now I know you are not responsible for all of the bad things that are happening around the world. You are the answer to all of the problems. It's Satan, who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I will never blame you again. You are my answer, not my problem. When I am in trouble or in need, I will run to you, not from you. I love you Lord, In Jesus' name amen.

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CHAPTER 4

Jesus Came That We Might Have Life And Have It More Abundantly

Without Jesus we have mere existence, not life.

We take up space like an unplugged refrigerator. Until it's plugged in, it is not capable of doing what it was designed to do.

John 10:10

10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

In chapter 2 we discussed life related to becoming part of the family of God or coming home to God

or being born again. This chapter talks about life in relation to living the God kind of life - Now.

Reason number four:

Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

The amplified version of the Bible says, to the full until it overflows.

Jesus said that He came for people to have life.

The Wuest translation says *I alone came in order that they might be possessing life.*

The God kind of life comes from and through a relationship with Jesus.

John 14:6

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jesus alone came that people might have this kind of life.

Jesus said that He had life in Himself, just as the Father had life in Himself.

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John 5:26

26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

Jesus gave up His life as a sacrifice for us so all humanity could, by God's grace, receive the gift of God.

What is the gift of God?

Romans 6:23 says it is life -- eternal life -- which is the God kind of life.

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 John 4:9

9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

The Phillips translation says, "To give us life through Him."

God did not send His Son into the world so that we could have Christmas, Easter, and church, but to

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give us life through Him.

The New English Bible says, “He sent His only Son into the world to bring us life.”

Jesus redeemed us, paid the price for us, and defeated the devil through His death as our substitute. We learned that in the last chapter. The devil is the master of death. Remember, he comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But, he does not have any dominion over those who have life. When Jesus gave us the gift of God, which is Life, it made Satan unable to lord it over us any longer.

Jesus said I am come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.

Let me share another story:

I would like to share a story about a couple who are members of my family. I will refer to them as David and Lisa, although those are not their real names. Several years ago David and Lisa decided to grow their family through adoption. They went to an adoption agency and filled out a lot of paperwork. They told the agency that the child’s race did not matter to them.

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Before they left the agency they were told of an African American baby girl who had just been born locally and needed a home. Within days they had their first child. After a year or so, they began the process of adopting two little boys from Africa. The boys were not biological brothers; however, all four of their parents had been killed during a violent civil war. A couple of years after bringing the boys home, they adopted another little girl, also from Africa.

Now let me explain why I'm sharing this story. All four of these children needed a new family. As babies, some of these kids saw death and destruction all around them. Others came from poverty and an inability to make it in life. You could say it like this: These kids were moved from situations where there was stealing, killing, and destroying to a family that gave them life, and life more abundantly. David and Lisa have raised them in a Christian home, which gives them opportunities for an abundant life in every area. They have been "born" into a new family, given a new name, and live in a new country. They have issues to deal with - and don't we all. But they are a loving family and doing extremely well.

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That is what Jesus did for us at the cross. If we accept his name (Jesus), his family (the family of God) and his country (Heaven), we have the opportunity for life and life more abundantly. All of this becomes available to us through the promises of God. In Him, we truly can live life and live it more abundantly.

We have access to heaven. The Bible says that all of our needs can be met according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Sharing this story of adoption just seemed to be a good way to share the difference between living our lives under bondage or being adopted into the family of God and living life more abundantly.

Because we have life, Satan has no more authority over us, only the authority we allow him to have. We are in a different realm, in a different sphere of existence, in a different family. The devil is not the lord over the realm of life. He has no authority over us in this new realm.

Remember Revelation 12:11

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony;

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If we come against him with the name of Jesus, and with his blood, we can stop him in his tracks every time. We must remember who we are in Christ and live life.

Eph 2:5

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

The light had gone out. There was no life. There was no longer any spiritual life on earth. Jesus said that is why He came, so people could have life.

What kind of life? Life in your spirit, life on the inside of you, eternal life. It is the kind of life God has, the kind of life which is in Heaven.

Eternal life is something which satisfies you on the inside, at the very core of your being, at the root. When you get life on the inside, it affects every part of your being.

There is a reason why this chapter comes after the others.

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In order to live the God kind of Life:

1. Knowing and understanding the character of God is vitally important.
2. Understanding who Jesus is and confessing Him as your Lord and Savior is vitally important.
3. Knowing that Satan has been defeated is vitally important.

Heb 11:6

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

In order to believe and live this verse, it's vital we understand that God is a good God. Everything Jesus did for us was because God is Good! This verse tells us He wants us to come to Him, to believe in Him, to trust Him and when we do, He is a rewarder. Many people don't believe that. Many Christians don't believe that.

Matt 11:28-30

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

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29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Now, let's look at this from the New Living Translation.

Matt 11:28-30

28 Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light." NLT

Let's read this as if God the Father were saying this, because He did. Do you remember Jesus said He only said what He heard the Father say and He only did what He saw the Father do? When we understand how good God really is, we want to run to Him for everything.

Heb 4:16

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Eph 2:10

10 For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]. AMP

This is a great verse to meditate on. He really does want the best for us. Jesus wants us to have eternal life, an abundant life, both in this life and the next.

Pray this prayer:

Dear Father, Thank you for life, your life. I know the more I understand this life, and the more I walk in this life, the more it will affect me and those around me. Reveal to me more of your life. Help me to understand more about who I am in you. I love you Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.

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SUMMARY

According to God's Word, the reasons Jesus came to Earth are:

1. Jesus came to:

Bear witness to the truth. To show us what God is really like.

• John 18:37-38

. . . For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. . .

2. Jesus came to:

Seek and to save that which was lost. We need to find our rightful place and that is in Jesus Christ.

• Luke 19:10

10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

3. Jesus came to:

Defeat the devil. To deliver mankind from his control. To render him harmless against those who know the truth.

- 1 John 3:8

8 . . . For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

4. Jesus came to:

Give us life. The God kind of life. There is only one way mankind can be brought into life. Receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

- John 10:10

. . . I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, but you want to, please turn to page 28 and pray that prayer from your heart. Welcome to the family of God!

Remember: Don't run from Him, run to Him!



More than 35 years ago, the Lord gave Paul DeNeui a call, Matt 4:19, "Follow me and I will make you fishers men." Today he is ministering over 480 times a year throughout eastern Oklahoma in assisted and nursing care facilities. He also travels to churches ministering and sharing: who we are, what we have, and what we can do, in Christ. Paul maintains a web site - www.pauldeneui.org - He has produced a southern gospel CD titled "I Believe", a healing CD titled "Healing, Forever Settled" and his first book "The Nursing Home Chronicles". In this book, he shares: 12 basic beliefs he lives by and chronicles the first year of the nursing home ministry .