

Unwrapping the Gift of Christmas The Gift of Purpose-Filled Living

December 9-10, 2017

INTRODUCTION: The Secret of Purpose-Filled Living

Isaiah 61:1 (All Verses from the New International Version 1984)
The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.

The Gift of Purpose-Filled Living

- Luke 19:10 ***For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.***
- Acts 10:38b ***...He went around doing good...***
- 1. **You have a mission to accomplish.**
- Isaiah 61:1a ***The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me...***
- Acts 1:1 ***In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach.***

2. You have a message to proclaim.

- Isaiah 61:1-2 ¹ ***The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn.***
- Luke 1:49-50 ⁴⁹ ***For the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.***

3. You have a ministry to perform.

- Isaiah 61:3-4 ³ ***and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. ⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.***
- 2 Corinthians 9:7-9 ⁷ ***Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."***

CONCLUSION: The Gift of Significance

G.P.S. Grow. Pray. Study.

Things I'd like to remember from this week's message:

Get the weekly GPS on your computer/phone/etc. by going to the site: www.clcm-gps.com. You can also get automatic notifications by sending a text to 81010 with the text @clcm-gps, or by subscribing through Feedly.com (or any other RSS reader).

Day 1: Read *Luke 19:10*. Jesus shares His purpose in coming to earth in this verse. As you get ready for Christmas, how can you remind yourself of Jesus reason for coming? How can you share that news with others? Whom can you pray for today for Jesus to seek and to save? Make time to pray for that person daily, now until Christmas.

Day 2: Read *Isaiah 61:1*. God places all of us here for His purposes to be fulfilled. As you think about your purpose, and what on earth you are here for, what do you sense your God-given purpose to be? What difference is that making today in your life?

Day 3: Read *Acts 1:1*. What Jesus "*began to do*" He continues through us. God will use you, wherever you are, whoever you are. God can use you in a great way. How did you see Him using you in the last 24 hours? What do you hope the day ahead holds for God using you as part of His mission to accomplish?

Day 4: Read *Luke 1:49-50*. You have a message to proclaim. Like Mary in her song about Jesus coming, what are some of the great things God has done for you this week? Where have you seen His mercy at work in your life? Whom are you sharing these great things and mercy moments with in your life?

Day 5: Read *Isaiah 61:3-4*. Notice Isaiah's three R words in verse 4 – **rebuild ... restore ... renew**. If we set our hearts on people who are hurting, and if we look for ways to inject hope into their lives, the result is we fulfill God's purpose for us. Where has God been working in your life to rebuild, restore, and renew? Where is He using you to rebuild, restore, and renew in someone else's life?

Day 6: Read *2 Corinthians 9:7-9*. Why do you give gifts at Christmas? Is that more something you have to do, or have you discovered the joy this is something you get to do? As you think about our Christmas Offering: **Christ Gives**, what excites you? What brings you joy? What is God saying to you as you pray to Him about what to give this Christmas?

Going Deeper:

Book: *Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?* by Rick Warren

Next Week: Lessons and Carols at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary (no Saturday evening service – 12/16, 12/23 and 12/30)