

July 12, 2020

Isaiah 55:10-13

“What’s the Purpose?”

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

People on the outside of the church often look at Bible believing Christians and think that they're just plain crazy. Crazy, as the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines the word, "not mentally sound: marked by thought and action that lacks reason." I find it interesting that people utterly despise us, and feel the real need to prove that we are nuts, to keep us down, or even get rid of us, if possible.

Well, it is true that we do swim against the current of the culture. We don't always go with the flow. Take for example the fact that we refuse to believe that we are merely an accident, the product of time and chance. People don't want us to teach that there might be a Creator who is intelligent and who originally designed an ordered universe. We don't believe that the human genome, which contains all of the information needed (the blueprint) to build and support a living human being, happened haphazardly through time and chance. According to Gillian K. Ferguson:

There are three billion letters in the Human Genome. Written out, the Human Genome would stretch 5,592 miles. It would take a typist working eight hours a day half a century to type. It would fill one million pages; 5,000 books stacked 200 feet high; or two hundred telephone directories. Read out for 24 hours a day, it would take a century to finish. The human body has 100 trillion cells – each contains a copy of the entire Genome.

Any mathematician can tell you that this is not an accident. There is information, organization, and structure found in life, in the human genome. From where did it come? We believe that this information, organization, structure came from a Creator who is God. We also believe that this Creator has chosen not to remain silent. He speaks to us in only the ways he has chosen.

Not only does God reveal himself in everything around us, such as a human eye that was made to see what might be seen, or an ear designed to hear what might be heard, but we also know that there is a God through the little voice inside of our heads that we call the conscience. That little voice tells us that there is right and wrong. It tells us that we are guilty or not guilty. By it's condemnation or exoneration it tells us that we are accountable to a higher power. The physical reality of death scares us because we conclude that if that is God's verdict on life down here, then what must be the verdict in the after life?

Finally, God speaks to us in a special way where all things fuzzy are made clear. He speaks to us in his word - the Bible. Our Old Testament lesson begins: "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Indeed! God has not left himself without testimony of himself (Acts 14:17). Rather, he gives us water so that we may eat, satisfying our hearts with food and gladness. This water and food and gladness has come from him who made all things. Even more, he has given to us his holy word, that is, he has spoken to us that he may accomplish his purpose. His word will do what needs to be done. So, **What's**

the Purpose? That brings us to another question: Why did God make us? The answer: much like parents, who have children because they have a love in which they want to share with a son or daughter, so has God made humanity to share all that has been “happening” throughout eternity. He wants us to have what he has. He wants us to exist as he exists and live in true love. He has made us to be his eternal companion.

Humanity is from the hidden Father, through his Son (his Word), by the Holy Spirit (the Breath of his mouth). We are considered to be his offspring. In the start, humanity was spoken into existence and was given the breath of a two-fold life - a physical life and an intimate connection or life with God that was to move from a perfect garden to a face to face dwelling with God in glory. He put humanity into this created world as a sort of a school house by which we might come to a proper understanding about our relationship with him and what he desires to have with us forever.

Unfortunately, with the malicious work of fallen angels, humanity messed up everything and chose self-love over love for another. Since then, we continue to live in a messed up world that cannot be fixed, where physical death looms over us and teaches us the truth that we cannot reach the goal of being with God in pure love forever. Good and Evil cannot dwell together. God’s goal to make us into his eternal companion has been blocked by our selfish wrongdoing. We attack what is good and we elevate what is bad to normal. All would be lost if it were not for the compassion and undeserved love of God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Yes, he knew before he made humanity that we would fall into death and lose the opportunity to be with him forever - that the fallen angels would accuse us and demand that we justly pay for our rebellion. Still, God saw before creation that, in the schoolhouse of time and space, he would have the opportunity to show us the full extent of his love by giving himself to save us. He would shut down the accusations of the fallen angels and pay the price of our rebellion. By doing this he would grow us up into a people that would be prepared to be with him forever. God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - would accomplish the purpose for which he made us, despite all opposition. In this way, we would be taught that love is stronger than death (Song of Songs 8:6).

Now, the way in which God saved us was truly remarkable, not only in the way in which it was done, but as it shows his loving heart. He gives up everything that we might have everything. The Father so loved the world that he gave his only Son. The Son, the Word of the Father, who is also true God, became one of us in order to give himself. He became one of us in order to do what humanity could not do for itself. The Holy Spirit brought the Son into this world through Mary and gave him to live a perfect life and go to the cross in order to suffer our hell and death.

Since the Son of God became a man, he brought eternal value to all that he did and fully payed the price for humanity’s mess. Jesus of Nazareth, the very Son of God, lived a perfect life on our behalf that we might be counted as good and become members of his good kingdom. Jesus suffered hell and death that we might escape hell and death. He rose from the dead so that we might know that we also shall be raised from the dead and even dwell with God as his eternal companion in everlasting love. Whoever believes this is pardoned for messing up themselves and the creation. Whoever believes this will not perish

but have everlasting life. Whoever believes this will reach the destination that God has planned from the beginning. They will reach the purpose of God which is described in our Old Testament lesson in words that we can understand. **What's the Purpose?** Our lesson states: "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

It may be hard to accept, but all of this down here had to be as it has been so that we might become the soul mate of God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This down here has provided the "stage" that was needed to reveal to us the true God and the depths of his heart through the Incarnation and Birth of the Son of God - Jesus of Nazareth - his life, sufferings, death, and resurrection. We must go through what we are going through in this life to be the perfect companion of the one who is and always will be.

This is why the world calls us crazy. Still, the world should pause and wonder how it is that we have come to have such open eyes and ears that hear the voice of the Creator. It is understandable why there are those, confronted with our existence and words, feel the need to shut us down. You see, if all of this is true, which I firmly know and believe that it is, one must confess sin before one can reach forgiveness and God's purpose. If our purpose is to dwell with our Creator as his soul mate, then we must first confront the mess we are and the mess we've made, and we must despise the mess for that which is to come. We must deny ourselves. The unbelieving world hates us because our very presence and message reflects the ministry of Jesus. He said that the world hated him because he testified that it's works are evil (John 7:7). But you see, it is only by confessing that one's works are evil can one then receive forgiveness and reach the purpose of God. If that makes us crazy, then so be it!

Amen.

Pastor Brock Abbott