

The Purpose of Life



“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:45 (KJV)

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*Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles’ Creed is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated in the 2nd century and developed into its present form by the 6th century. By referring to Jesus’ descent into hell, the Christian embraces two truths. Firstly, Jesus received the full sentence of hell on behalf of his people while on the cross. Secondly, Jesus experienced the reign of death by remaining in the tomb after the crucifixion. The term catholic refers to the church universal, knowing no racial, economic, geographical, or language barriers.

Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Missions Report

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call To Worship

Hymn of Adoration: "Sing a New Song" Putnam/Engquist

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed*

Song of Praise: "Hymn of Heaven" . . . Johnson/Davenport/Wickham

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal -----

Scripture Warning: 1 Timothy 6:6-9, 11

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Galatians 2:20

Song of Renewal: "He Will Hold Me Fast". Haberson/Merker

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: *Mark 10:35-45 (ESV)*

Prayer

The Sermon

"The Purpose of Life"

Song of Communion: "Thank You Jesus for the Blood"

. . . Gayle/Kennedy/Musso/Gentiles/McCleery

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Approach

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

Holy Communion

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision" Irish Folk Melody

Benediction

God's Gracious Provision 12/26/2021

Attendance: 37

Offering: \$16443.00

Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.

A Prayer for the New Year

Tim Challies



My Good and Gracious Father,
You have brought me safely through another year. This was a year in which I saw and experienced so much of your goodness. You were good when you gave, and you were good when you took away; you were good when the sun shined upon me and you were good when the night fell around me. You were only, ever good.

In your Word you give the sure promise that you have loved me since before the foundation of the world. That love was always with me and held me fast through another year. You led me in each step I took. You led me around the wilderness to the places of cool rest and quiet. You led me through dark valleys to the joy beyond. You were there even in times when I wandered and went astray. There was nowhere I could go that was beyond your love, beyond your reach, beyond your care and compassion. You are so good and I am so grateful.

Father, I trust and I believe that your love and your kindness will be my theme in the year ahead. I entrust the future to you and I do it with joy and with confidence. I do it with sure hope that you already know each step I will take and that you will be with me to direct each one of them.

If you have appointed trials and tribulation, I know that you will guide and comfort me through them all. If I have to pass through persecution or times of deep temptation, I can have full confidence that you will never leave me nor forsake me. If this is to be the year you call me home, I can receive that with joy, knowing that I will rejoice to be in your presence at last. If this is the year that Christ returns—Please, may it be the year that Christ returns!—, then I will join with all Creation in rejoicing and praising your name.

But if you grant me length of days, and if you grant me health and safety through the year ahead, it is my prayer and my deep desire that I would live them all in your service and to your glory. Please grant me a grace that guides, sustains and sanctifies me every day and every hour, that in this new year I would not live a moment apart from you. Let me rely on your Spirit to supply every word I need to speak, to direct my every step, to prosper all I do, to build up my faith, and to grant me the heartfelt desire to display your glory, to advance your kingdom, and to declare your gospel.

Whatever may come in the year ahead, I pray that you would glorify yourself through me. In times of joy or sadness, in times of security or trial, in times of peace or temptation, make yourself known and make yourself great through me. I pray this in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

This prayer was based in part on the two new year's prayers in The Valley of Vision.

Warning the ignorant brothers of the magnitude and folly of their request, Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” Christ’s point is that reward and honor in the kingdom are relative to the degree of earthly suffering endured.

Their answer revealed that they did not understand the ramifications of what they were asking. When the moment of crisis came, their overconfidence was exposed, and they fled along with the rest of the apostles (Matt. 26:56).

The Lord’s Rebuke of His Disciples

Mark 10:42–45 (ESV)

And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

⁴³But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

The Purpose of Life

The Kingdom that Christ calls us to be part of does not operate the way the kingdoms of this world operate. It's not, about prominence, and power, and possessions, and your pleasure as a result of all those things. Here's what we're called to: we're called to be a slaves.

“There's nothing in the life of a slave that he determines. Every aspect of the life of a slave is determined by the will of another. Every aspect of his life is a picture of dependency on another. All the boundaries of his life are set by the rules of another; all of his energies are lived for this success, glory of another. The whole life of a slave is expending personal energies for the sake of another.”

“It will never be about you; it will never be about you; it's about Me; it's about My plan; it's about My glory; it's about My grace; it's about My Kingdom. And I've called you to lay down your will, lay down your way, lay down your plan, lay down your dreams for you, and to find joy in every aspect of your life being dictated by the will of Another.”

¹Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Mark: Jesus, servant and savior* (Vol. 1, p. 13). Crossway Books.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 4 6:30-8:00 P.M. Youth Group will meet at the Deicherts

Friday, January 7 to Sunday, January 9 Young Adult Retreat at the Inn of Hope at SPADE international. For ages 17-30. see Deana Deichert for more information.

Saturday, January 15 Men’s breakfast at Cabelas
Contact Matt Deichert for more information.

Sunday, January 16 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer
GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults—1300 High St

Looking Ahead: February 25-27 Youth Winter Retreat
March 18-19 Men’s Retreat

Bring in your Redner’s receipts. For every \$5000 in receipts, Grace Covenant Youth Group receives \$50.00 back from Redner’s. Please give them to Barb Knarr.

Crossing Cultures International David and Mindy Nelson



On December 16, Super Typhoon Rai, locally known as Typhoon Odette, slammed 160 mph winds and rain into the central Philippines, leaving a path of destruction along its way. **Camp Karis, a ministry of CCI Philippines, was severely hit with much damage.** Tens of thousands of mango trees have been knocked down. We plan to organize a new chainsaw ministry team to help with the current reconstruction needs. Pray that this ministry will open doors to the Gospel.

DiscipleMakers Tim and Holly Howden

- Praise God for working in powerful ways in lives at Fall Conference.
- Pray for the young man who expressed interest in the Gospel and received a Bible. Pray that he sees the truth and believes it.
- Pray for a young man at Kutztown University who has a growing vision for discipling students there.

Prayer/Praise. January 2, 2022

- Pray for Lorraine Blanski's sister-in-law, Helene, wife of her brother, Ralph. She has Covid related issues. Pray for God's healing and a quick recovery.
- Pray for Mandi Yensan's prior coworker, Connie, whose husband of 48 years passed away on December 30th. Pray for peace for Connie's and her daughter's hearts and that God will reveal himself in this really difficult time.
- Pray for Lizette Barret, acquaintance of Lorraine Blanski. Lizette has been on a ventilator for about 20 days due to Covid. Her husband isn't allowed to visit. Pray for healing and a quick recovery.
- Pray for Pastor Rick. He is having a laminectomy on Tuesday of this week at Hershey Medical Center. Pray for a successful surgery and a speedy recovery.
- Pray for the family of Chris, who is a friend of Cindy Yorgey's friend, who passed away from his Covid illness. Pray for God's peace and comfort for Chris's wife and children.
- Pray for Jeremiah Mace's friend, Walter, who had an intervention. Walter lost his wife and is struggling at this time. Pray that Walter went to Teen Challenge and gets the help he desperately needs.
- Pray for Lisa Frame, who needs a negative COVID test in order to return to work. Praise that she is feeling better.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Pray for healing for Evan and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece. Pray for strength and a positive outlook with PT and fitting for his prostheses. Pray for Austin as he navigates his surroundings and his new life.
- Pray for Lorraine Blanski's brother, Frank, and his family. Kathy passed away on December 11th. Pray for God's comfort, peace and strength for the family and for salvation.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak. Denny fell and broke an arm and fractured his jaw. Pray for healing from this accident and that he will be able to have the procedure to get the results of his cancer treatments.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy treatment.
- Add your personal prayers here.

Message

The Purpose of Life

Mark 10:35–45

- Mark is the *oldest* of the Gospels.
- Mark had a shaky beginning in the Ministry.
- Mark wrote his gospel right after the death of Peter and the Neronian persecution, sometime between A.D. 60 and 70.
- The purpose of John Mark's writing was to encourage the Gentile church in Rome.
- Mark used the historical present tense 150 times. Jesus *comes*, Jesus *says*, and Jesus *heals*—all in the present tense.
- There are more miracles recorded in Mark than in the other Gospels, despite its being far shorter.
- Everything is in vivid “Eyewitness News briefs,” brilliantly vivid and fast-moving.
- Mark uses the Greek word for “immediately” some forty-two times (there are only seven occurrences in Matthew and one in Luke).
- The conjunction “and” is unusually frequent (beginning twelve of Mark's sixteen chapters) and adds to the rush of action.
- Christ's life is portrayed as super busy (he even had trouble finding time to eat—see 3:20 and 6:31).¹

The Disciple's Failure to Learn Jesus' Servant Approach

Mark 10:35–41 (ESV)

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”³⁶ And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?”³⁷ And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.”³⁸ Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”³⁹ And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized,⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”⁴¹ And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John.

Self-promotion is manifested in arrogant overconfidence
(10:38–40)