The Call of Living a Purposeful Life

Bible Study Guide
Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10
Bro. Fred Hall, Sr.
August 31, 2025

Opening Prayer & Welcome

Begin with prayer thanking God for His intentional work in our salvation and asking Him to help us understand our identity as His masterpiece, called to walk in His prepared good works

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Introduction: The Call to Purposeful Living

Key Definition: Purposeful living flows from understanding that we are saved on purpose, by purpose, and for purpose—not accidents, but participants in God's eternal plan.

Scripture Foundation: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we should walk in them." - Ephesians 2:10

Discussion Starter: The Empty Suitcase Illustration

Bro. Hall shared the story of a father who asked his son to pack clothes in a suitcase for a business trip. The son, distracted by video games, only remembered to bring the empty suitcase to the airport. The father had his ticket, itinerary, and suitcase—but when he reached his destination, the suitcase was empty.

Questions:

1. How might Christians live like "empty suitcases" on their spiritual journey?
2. What does it mean to have our lives "filled with the blessings of God"?
3. How can we avoid failing "midway through the journey" because our lives are empty?

The Big Idea

We are saved on purpose, by purpose, and for purpose. Purposeful living begins with recognizing God's intentional work in our salvation and results in walking confidently as His masterpiece.

Purposeful living flows out of gratitude for what God has done, and we live intentionally because we have been rescued for a reason

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Truth #1: You Are Intentionally Saved

Key Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-7

"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins... But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in transgressions, made us alive together with Christ."

Main Points:

A. Salvation reveals our past condition - dead in trespasses and sins
B. Salvation demonstrates God's initiative - "But God" and "even when"
C. Salvation is part of God's eternal purpose - not random or earned

Key Teaching from Bro. Hall:

"Salvation isn't an afterthought. It's God's eternal plan... You are here not because you are smart enough, not because you are wise enough, not because you have enough money and intelligence. You are here because God saved you and chose you to be here."

The "Even When" Emphasis:

Bro. Hall emphasized that Paul doesn't just say "But God" but adds "even when we were dead in transgressions." This shows the magnitude of God's grace—He didn't wait for us to improve but saved us at our worst.

Supporting Scripture: Ephesians 1:11

"In him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to his purpose, who works all things after the counsel of his will"

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that we "formerly walked according to the prince of the power of the air"?

2. How does understanding our past spiritual deadness increase our gratitude for salvation?
3. Why is it important that salvation is God's eternal plan rather than an afterthought?
4. How can remembering the "even when" nature of God's grace affect our daily confidence?

Application from Bro. Hall:

"You are not a mistake. You are not a mistake."

Application:

Reflect on your life before Christ and write down three specific ways God's "even when" grace has been evident in your salvation story.

Truth #2: You Are God's Masterpiece

Key Scripture: Ephesians 2:10a

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus..."

Main Points:

A. We are God's handiwork (poiema) - His artistic creation
B. We reflect His image and living testimony
C. Our new identity sets our new direction

Key Teaching from Bro. Hall:

"The word literally means that you are God's handiwork... It carries the idea of one writing poetry... You are actually living in God's purpose and... God's hand has been so on you that he has created you molded you and shaped you."

The Mirror Illustration:

Bro. Hall used the example of women taking time in the mirror to get their makeup, eyelashes, and appearance just right, then said: "God took time to handcraft you. To put his stamp and signature on your life to make you who you are."

Identity Determines Direction:

"If I'm walking in the favor of God in the life of Christ, then my direction cannot be where everybody else is going... God giving you identity won't allow your life to flow in the direction of everybody else."

Supporting Scripture: Ephesians 1:13-14

"In him you also, after listening to the message of truth... having also believed, you were sealed in him with the Holy Spirit of promise"

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be God's "workmanship" or artistic creation?
2. How should understanding that you're God's masterpiece affect your self-worth?
3. What does it mean that "identity sets direction"?
4. How can you resist worldly pressures to conform when your identity is secure in Christ?

Application from Bro. Hall:

"You are a walking testimony that God is real."

Application:

Identify one way your life currently reflects God's "handcrafted" work and one area where you need to better align with your identity as His masterpiece.

Truth #3: You Live with Ordered Steps

Key Scripture: Ephesians 2:10b

"...created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we should walk in them."

Main Points:

A. Good works are God's predetermined purpose
B. Every step in obedience matters eternally
C. Walking purposefully requires intentionality

Key Teaching from Bro. Hall:

"God prepared, not only did he have in his purpose a people that would be to himself... but God would also have a purpose as to how they should live... The good works were purposed in his mind before he even set us on the earth."

The Basketball Illustration:

Bro. Hall shared about meeting a basketball player and discussing how success requires intentional practice: "You got to purposely go to the gym and you got to purposely hit the weights... if you intentionally walk with God... if you intentionally study your Bible... you'll see growth if you're intentional about it."

Daily Christian Living:

"Christians don't have days off. Every day you are a disciple. Every day you ought to reflect Christ likeness. Every day you ought to sound like Jesus. Every day you ought to move like him."

Supporting Scripture: Psalm 37:23

"The steps of a man are established by the Lord, and He delights in his way"

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that God "prepared beforehand" good works for us?
2. How does knowing our steps are "divinely ordered" affect daily decision-making?
3. What's the difference between "drifting" and "living in kingdom purpose"?
4. How can you be more intentional in your walk with God?

Application from Bro. Hall:

"Ask yourself, am I drifting or am I living in kingdom purpose?"

Application:

Choose one area where you need to be more intentional in your Christian walk and develop a specific plan for growth in that area this week.

Practical Applications from Bro. Hall

Five Things to Consider:

1. Purposeful living begins with God's intervention - He gives life, position, and a plan
2. Without Christ, life is aimless - Purposeful living cannot originate in our fallen condition
3. Purposeful living isn't about performance - It's about living in God's favor, not earning it
4. God designed us with intentionality - We are masterpieces with divine approval and plan

5. Embrace your gifts and walk in your assignment - Don't compare yourself to others

Daily Practices:

- **Begin each morning with prayer** asking God to align you with His purpose
- **Identify one gift, passion, or skill** God gave you and dedicate it to kingdom service
- **Stop comparing yourself to other people** and move in God's purpose for your life
- **Live intentionally** in your faith walk, knowing you'll be challenged to practice what you believe

Remember: You Are Not Living Life Like an Empty Suitcase

"Failure to walk in God's purpose is living life like an empty suitcase... it is fundamentally important that you recognize on this journey of life that I need God now more than ever."

Group Prayer & Commitment

Prayer Focus Areas:

1. **Gratitude for Salvation:** Thank God for His "even when" grace that saved us at our worst
2. **Identity in Christ:** Pray for understanding of our value as God's masterpiece
3. **Purposeful Living:** Ask for wisdom to walk in the good works God prepared
4. **Intentionality:** Request strength to live purposefully rather than drifting

Commitment Challenge:

This week, identify one specific gift, passion, or skill God has given you and take one concrete step toward dedicating it to kingdom service.

Reflection: "We are saved on purpose, by purpose, and for purpose."

For Further Study

Additional Scriptures:

- Ephesians 1:11 (Predestined according to His purpose)
- Ephesians 1:13-14 (Sealed with the Holy Spirit)
- Psalm 37:23 (Steps established by the Lord)
- Jeremiah 29:11 (Plans to prosper you and not to harm you)

- Romans 8:28 (All things work together for good)
- 2 Timothy 1:9 (Called according to His purpose)

Discussion for Next Week:
How can understanding our purposeful calling help us live more impactfully in our community and relationships?

Closing Prayer

Pray thanking God for His intentional work in our salvation, recognizing that we are not accidents but chosen participants in His eternal plan. Ask God to help us embrace our identity as His masterpiece, handcrafted with divine purpose. Request wisdom and strength to walk in the good works He prepared beforehand, living intentionally rather than drifting. Pray that our lives would give Him glory and serve as living testimonies of His reality and goodness.

Remember from Bro. Hall: "You are here with a purpose and that is to give God glory by your life."