

Core: Establishing Essentials of Faith
Session #10: The Mission of God (Our life purpose)
November 10, 2021

OVERVIEW: Core

REVIEW OF LAST WEEK: God & the devil (Standing against the enemy of our souls)

The devil is a recurring character throughout the Bible. Jesus speaks at length to and about the devil and demons. The wicked one is no match for our God. God is our Creator. The wicked one has been defeated in Christ. We “stand” against the work of the wicked one. We keep our eyes on Jesus, Who combats the enemy on our behalf.

FINISHING LAST WEEK

5. Standing against the enemy of our souls

The solution is not to ignore the devil, or be oblivious, but to stand against the devil

a. Perspective

The Creator is greater than the created

1 John 4:4 *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

- *Let's don't imagine a devil behind every bush*
- *Let's recognize evil and wickedness. It's not just a product of our environment.*
- *Like Job, the devil doesn't have free reign in our lives. He is under God's authority.*
- *The devil and God are not equal and opposite forces*

We're not ignorant

2 Corinthians 2:11 *May Satan not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.*

We're no match for the devil

Jude 9 *But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*

The devil's no match for our God

Zechariah 4:6 *So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.*

b. Truth: Jesus defeated the devil

1 John 3:8 *He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.*

Colossians 1:13 *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.*

Revelation 12:10–11 *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*

c. Standing

Posture

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

1 John 1:5–7 *This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and*

do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Wisdom

Ephesians 4:27 *Do not give the devil a foothold.*

Armor up

Ephesians 6:10–18 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*

Offense

2 Corinthians 10:4–5 *The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

6. In the end

Keep our eyes on Jesus, not the devil

We win

Revelation 12:11 *They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*

Today: The Mission of God. (Our life purpose)

Theme Scripture.

John 5:17 *“Jesus said, ‘My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I, too, am working.’”*

God's never doing nothing
God is redeeming creation.

Romans 8:21 *Creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.*

1. The “Mission of God”

Missio Dei. Latin for “The Mission of God,” or “The Sending of God”

God has been on the move throughout human history

Creating, interacting, caring, healing, redeeming, etc.

We speak of “movements” of God

Biblical: Creation, flood, exodus, exile, Christ, church, etc.

Historical: Church fathers & mothers, missions, monastics, Reformation, revival, charismatic, church growth, etc.

2. The past, present and future Mission of God

a. Israel

Isaiah 42:6–7 “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

b. Christ

Luke 4:18–19 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

c. Christ’s followers

John 15:15–16 Jesus said, “I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his Master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.”

3. God calls us into His Mission

a. Participating in the life of God

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

b. Living on purpose

Ephesians 2:10 We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

c. Empowered by God’s Spirit

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

d. Commissioned

Matthew 28:19–20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

e. Everyday ambassadors

2 Corinthians 5:19–20 God has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

4. “Christian” means “little Jesus”

a. Serving others

Caring for the needs of a broken world

b. Saving souls

John Wesley: “You have no business except saving souls”

c. Making disciples

Become fully human and reach our potential as God intended

5. Where to begin?

a. Recognizing our life’s purpose

Mission is our vocation

Matthew 4:19 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

b. Living into our high calling

Philippians 3:14 *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

c. Developing our worldview

John 4:35 *Jesus said, “Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”*

d. Gaining a burden

2 Corinthians 5:14 *For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.*

CT Studd. “Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop, within a yard of hell.”

e. Stepping out of our comfort zone

Serving & faith-sharing (we’re going to talk about these next)

Next week: *Serving God* (Works of mercy)

What’s it mean for our lives

- **God’s never doing nothing.** God is working 24/7 to redeem creation.
- **God intends to use us.** Christ-followers are a continuation of God’s mission.
- **Our lives have great purpose.** Every moment of every day counts for God’s Kingdom.

Reflections for this week:

- **What challenges you Biblically?** (How do you understand Scripture differently?)
- **What challenges you ethically?** (How does this inform your morals and worldview?)
- **What challenges you personally?** (What might God be speaking to your heart about your personal life?)