

Jan 6, 2019 **TRUE SELVES , TRUE PURPOSE**

## **2Corinthians 5**

How appropriate that, as we begin a new year of faith & life together, God has us answering the greatest question in life: Who are we & what is our purpose in living? Every aspect of worship this morning – *from the Children’s Message on self-control to the Mission Moment @ sharing the gospel* – is an integral part of the answer to this question! And while I wish I were smart enough to plan a worship service like this – *with all of these separate but unifying elements...I am not!* But God is! Nothing has happened by coincidence! He has woven together each element, brought each participant, and formulated each idea so that we may understand our true identity & purpose!

In chapter 5 of his second letter to the Christians in Corinth, Paul provides several truths about the inheritance that is our salvation: but to me, none more important than these two points: Identity & Purpose–Being & Doing! The reality is that in Christ Jesus, each of us uncovers our true self & true purpose

- True Selves = *the beings we were always meant to be*
- True Purpose = *the work we were always meant to do*

*Are you willing to worship this purposeful, captivating God?  
Are you willing to uncover your True Self in Christ Jesus?  
Are you willing to discover your True Purpose in living?*

### **READ: 2Corinthians 5:16-21 (NLT)**

**16)** We must view all people spiritually! **2 kinds: dead & alive!**

**17)** “*All of this means...*” or “*Therefore, b/c of all I’ve said...*”

- This is the climax truth: we are New Creatures (ions)
- New “Originals” - Creatures never before existed
- No renovation, remodel, 2<sup>nd</sup> chance – brand new!

(ktis'-is) – creation/creature (the product or act) – we are both!

**O**ften of the founding of a city; always of Divine work.

**This Creature/Creation is formed out of nothing** (*ex nihilo*)

*This is the prophecy God spoke thru Ezekiel, Jeremiah & Isaiah concerning the New Covenant to be inaugurated by Jesus Christ: in Him, God creates a people for Himself w/ new hearts, new spirit-natures (inner-identity), indwelt by His Holy Spirit, with a new desire & divine power to live out His will His way!*

The transformation represented here is a true metamorphosis. *When I say that word, you likely picture a butterfly that “changes form in keeping with his inner reality!”* When you think about it, there’s nothing remotely recognizable between a caterpillar & a butterfly. This transformation is what the disciples saw in Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration: **“His face shone as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.”** **(Matt 17:2)** When Jesus transfigured, 2 realities were involved:

- 1) His outward appearance reflected His true inner nature
- 2) His activity changed as a result (from servant to Deity!)

Like Jesus, we Christians are/being transfigured – our outer expression & activity is changing to reflect the new identities we received by the Holy Spirit’s conversion/salvation – *No longer sinners, but new holy ones thru rebirth!* This is who we are in our inner-persons – who we were always meant to be!

***But what is our purpose as God’s new people here on earth?***

### **READ: 2Corinthians 5:18-20**

**18-19)** God brought us back to Himself thru Christ Cross-work

- Reconciliation – a relational term for redemption (legal)
- We were enemies, but God in Christ made us His friend

**20)** Ambassadors for Christ making His appeal, “*Come to God*”

- This is a verbalization; sharing the Gospel is thru words
- Our words must be supported by our lives; but speak!
- Be ready to give an explanation for the hope in you!***

This is our purpose for living: to publically represent God’s Kingdom & announce His plea to come back to Him thru faith in Christ. Only we who have experienced this reconciliation can testify; and Jesus told us that when the Holy Spirit came to fill all believers, God’s Presence makes us witnesses of His glory!

### **INVITATION:**

- 1) Have you become who you were meant to be – God’s child?
- 2) Are you active in your purpose as Christ’s Ambassador?
- 3) In 2019, will you experience your true self & true purpose?

Paul's secondary message to True Self, True Purpose is Being confident in Christ! This means believing/accepting all the promises of God concerning our eternal inheritance as His new creations filled with God's Personal Life Presence! The Holy Spirit is the guarantee (& Guarantor) that we will receive our full inheritance (God's promises) in God's time. But it also means exercising the benefits of our inheritance that we've already received – those benefits we have now!

The Spirit is God's deposit, down payment or first installment of our inheritance (*Can you imagine!*): the aspects which we've already begun to receive = eternal life with God as His children! There are many aspects of this inheritance of eternal life for which we must wait: resurrection of new spiritual bodies, the certainty of passing judgment, and being at home with the Lord in His new heaven/earth (2Cor 5:1-10). But we are not waiting to become His children, share His divine nature, become vessels of his super-natural life, or be adopted as His children who are already of age to receive inheritance!

It is the Holy Spirit who is God's Personal Life Presence in us, who has circumcised our hearts from self-dependence, baptized us into Christ permanently, converted our spirit-identities from sinner to Saints, and is the Agent of our ongoing sanctification (Guarantor) by which our soul (mind, will, emotions) progressively & accurately convey our new holiness.