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**Series: Planning for REAL Success**

Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)

*Commit to the Lord whatever you do,  
and your plans will succeed.*

R-emembering My Priorities

E-valuating My Possessions

A-dmitting My Problems

**L-iving Out My Purpose**

## Living Out My Purpose

### Colossians 1:15-29 (NIV)

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

<sup>16</sup>*For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

<sup>21</sup>*Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. <sup>22</sup>But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- <sup>23</sup>if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.*

<sup>24</sup>*Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. <sup>25</sup>I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness-- <sup>26</sup>the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. <sup>27</sup>To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

<sup>28</sup>*We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. <sup>29</sup>To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.*

### 1. PURPOSE STARTS AND ENDS WITH CHRIST.

v. 16 *"...all things were created by him and for him."*

v. 17 *"...and in him all things hold together."*

Colossians 1:16 (MsgB)

*For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.*

- Understanding our purpose means that we understand that we are joining God in His mission.
- God's mission that drives our purpose for existence is redeeming mankind to Himself.
- Christ is the centerpiece of God's mission which is demonstrated even in Creation.

### 2. SUCCESS COMES FROM UNDERSTANDING THAT MY PURPOSE MUST BE SUBORDINATED TO GOD'S PURPOSES.

v. 18 *"...And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy."*

- The moment I begin to operate out of my own agenda, I risk missing my purpose.
- Christ is the head of the body of Christ and therefore defines my success.
- What ever I want to do for God remains subject to the supremacy of Christ.

### 3. I AM HERE TO PROCLAIM THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST.

v. 26-27 *"the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."*

- Our purpose in life is to proclaim a mystery that God is ready to reveal to the world.
- That mystery is hidden from the world, but God has chosen believers to be the bearers of the good news.
- Success comes in the revelation of the mystery, not in the response to it.

**Real success comes when I understand that my purpose is to join with God on His mission to redeem the world to Himself.**