

You Were Called For This Purpose I Peter

Introduction:

- I. One of the most fascinating questions in this life is the one concerning its meaning. Why are we here? What purpose will I serve in this life?
- II. Think about that question for a moment. Why are you alive? Why did you become a Christian? What brings you to church this morning?
 - a. The Bible has the answer this question. In I Peter, the apostle tells his readers why they were called to be Christians.
 - i. They were to live in a way that silenced those who criticized Christianity.
 - ii. They were to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.
 - iii. They were to inherit a blessing prepared by God for them.

Discussion:

- I. To Put to Silence the Ignorance of Foolish Men
 - a. There are people in this world who will talk about whomever they can.
 - i. It does not matter whether the person is good or bad, the reputation they carry is often more prevalent than their true actions.
 - ii. Peter tells his audience, "Let it not once be named among you."
 1. This does not mean that "most of the time," or "usually" we are the right kind of people. Unfaithfulness cannot "ONCE" be used to describe us!!
 2. We must always be careful to do God's will as perfectly as humanly possible.
 - a. Every scripture that refers to becoming a Christian says that it is the end of one lifestyle and the beginning of another.
 - i. Colossians 3:5-10
 - ii. Galatians 2:20
 - iii. Romans 6:1-4
 3. "But I'm faithful most of the time. I need to cut loose once in a while."
 - a. What we don't realize is that when we say this, we are saying, "I know I made a promise, but I can't expect to keep my word all the time!"
 - i. What if an ambulance driver felt that way about his job?
 - ii. What if a mother and father felt that way about providing for their children?
 - iii. I began working at RadioShack partially for the insurance. (My physical a few months ago was not even covered.)
 - b. As Christians, we need to be true to the promise we made to God when we became Christians.)

II. To Follow in Christ's Footsteps

a. This is true in every facet of life.

i. Suffering

1. In the present context of I Peter, the apostle is telling them that if we are going to be Christ's disciples, we must endure suffering, just like He did.

a. Notice how Jesus is described in verses 22-24:

i. He committed no sin, and no deceit was in his mouth.

1. Therefore we must be sinless and honest in all things.

ii. When he was insulted, he did not return an insult.

1. Therefore we too must refrain from returning evil for evil.

iii. When he suffered, he did not threaten.

1. When we suffer, we must not attack others because of life's unfairness, abuse, etc.

iv. Rather, he entrusted himself to the one who judges righteously.

1. God will judge. If we try to step in and do God's judgment for him, we are taking God's place!

a. This applies to evil retribution

i. Romans 12:19

b. This applies to condemning others

i. Jude 9 (the chief angel would not condemn the devil himself!)

2. We are not to fight back or condemn. We must invoke God's judgment (The Lord will rebuke the ungodly), but pray for the person (Matthew 5:44-45).

ii. Compassion and Obedience

1. It is easy for us to forget that Christ did not have to endure what he did for us.

a. Sure, it was God's will, but think long and hard before writing this off as just a completion of God's will (Remember, so was the Flood of Noah's Time)!

i. Jesus is God's son. Think of the most powerful people of our day. Would they swap places with you, even if it did not cost them their lives?

ii. Did God not have a right (and Jesus as well) to write off humanity for destruction because of unfaithfulness?

iii. Yet, out of compassion, Jesus obeyed God.

1. Philippians 2:5-11

2. Hebrews 5:8-9
3. When he became a man, he obeyed man (His parents, the laws of his day, the verdict of Pilate and the Jews, and his crucifixion).
 - a. He could have called 10,000 angels, but he died alone for you and me.

III. To Inherit a Blessing

- a. Christ came into this world to seek and to save the lost.
 - i. II Peter 3:9 - he does not want anyone to be lost.
 - ii. His way of preventing that is by the gospel - Romans 1:15-17
- b. Remember what God told Abraham in Genesis 12? "Therefore be a blessing!"
 - i. In order for God to bless us, we must be a blessing to others.
 1. Our words must impart grace – Colossians 4:6
 2. Our actions are a good example of (to) the believers
 - a. This example works both ways—to the Christian and unbeliever. The Greek construction can be interpreted both ways (Be the believer's example).
 - b. We are to be examples in:
 - i. Word – How we talk
 1. No filthy communication – Colossians 3:9
 2. No idle words – II Timothy 2:15; Matthew 12:36-37
 - a. Matthew 12:33-35 explains why this is a big deal
 - ii. Conduct
 1. James 1:21-22 – To trust in the word without doing it is to deceive (cheat) yourself.
 - iii. Love
 1. I Corinthians 13:8 – Love never (NEVER) fails. Again, it is not something we do “most of the time.”
 - iv. Spirit
 1. Although not listed in all translations, it is implied by the context.
 - a. I Timothy 4:13-16 – In order to be able to save/teach others, we must first teach ourselves and let our progress be seen by everyone.
 - v. Faith
 1. Abraham was told to be a blessing, and he was a Father of Faith (Hebrews 11).
 - a. He left his home and security for a land that was not his, and lived among strangers.

- b. He offered his son as a sacrifice (although he was prevented from finishing it).
- c. He sought another country, one not of this world, and that was apparent to all who saw him (Hebrews 11:13-16).

vi. Purity

- 1. Peter places a great emphasis on purity in his first letter.
 - a. 1:7, 16, 22; 2:2, 5, etc.
 - b. How would you like it if your water was pure “most of the time?”
 - c. What if your medicine wasn’t fatal “most of the time?”
 - d. We make a joke out of God’s judgment when we think it’s okay to be a Christian only “most of the time.”

Conclusion:

- I. We are called to be Christians:
 - a. To Silence the Ignorance of Foolish Men by Good Conduct
 - b. To Follow in the Footsteps of Jesus
 - c. To Inherit a Blessing