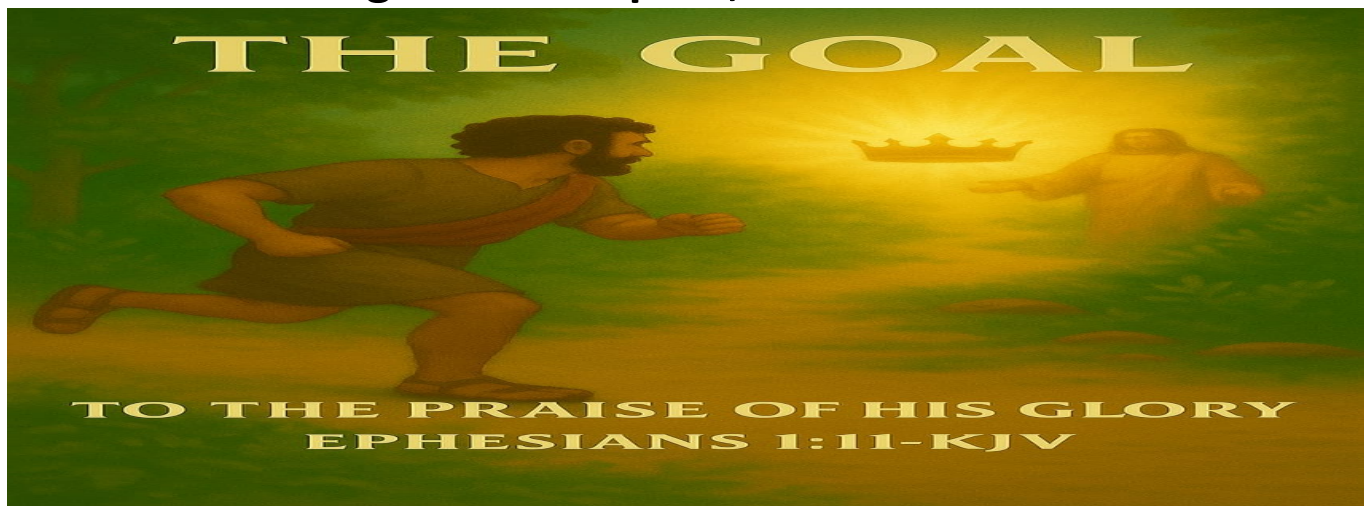


## OASIS: August 28 – Sept. 3, 2025: The Goal Part 2



***"that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth – in Him." Ephesians 1:10 (NKJV).***

This is Part 2 of the focus on **The Ultimate Purpose of God's command to grow in Grace and in Knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.** A Key deduction made in last week's study is that **the Almighty God is PURPOSEFUL.** And having put this quality in human beings His Masterpiece, **human beings are also very concerned about PURPOSE.** So, recently, when I learnt that a revered man of God, with several millions of people in his ministry acquired a private Jet (How, I don't know and it is of no consequence), at his old age of 80, I was very disturbed as to what purpose he was trying to achieve? It must be noted here that most of these millions live in a country which though is ordinarily well endowed by the Almighty God, are dying of poverty in the midst of plenty. Yes, this is a country undergoing a level of poverty and lack never thought of, say only five years ago. Yet, a leader of several millions of people under this situation considers it appropriate to acquire a private jet, while these millions are languishing in poverty. **What a gross insensitivity, focus on personal wellbeing to the disregard of, and a rejection of God's purpose.** Granted that this has also become the goal of many leaders of churches in that country, is this what Jesus Christ, his supposed Master would do? I am wondering to myself, but now aloud for all readers to think about, what kind of purpose is this revered man of God, and the other leaders who have acquired private jets and other luxurious things pursuing in a country where many of their followers are dying of poverty? **Private jets and other luxuries are things of this world, and they perish with this world, yet God's purpose as we can see from the above passage is eternal.** But when leaders make worldly materials their focus and pursuit, they tell their followers to do the same. And definitely, when leaders pursue material wealth and are comfortable in them, they do not see or care to see the suffering of other people. And so, these leaders give no thought to the sufferings of their followers, and even still make more demands of them for their (leaders) personal comfort! **This is nothing but GREED Per Excellence!**

There are so many parallels in the Bible, but the one I want to use for illustration is that recorded in the Book of Haggai. The LORD spoke through Prophet Haggai, ***"that this is what the LORD of Hosts says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD.'" Is it a time for you yourselves to live in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?"*** The children of God are the Temple of God; but in country after country, including Nigeria, which is described above, leaders of churches have not only neglected, but also exploited them only for their benefit. These leaders invent different programmes that distract from true godliness, leaving them hollow, always blaming themselves of not being spiritual enough. Consequently, they commit to activities and sacrifices, mostly fasting and praying, and giving to the church, **and as they are manipulated to do, in the hope that God will in turn also give to them. But their experience, which unfortunately they do not stop to review, is more of pain and vanity.** The people get poorer, while the leaders get richer. The majority of people, find it difficult to afford a decent place to stay, cannot send their children to good schools, and can hardly afford a square meal a day. **They labour tirelessly to meet these basic needs, sometimes engaging in sinful activities and behaviours, excusing and telling themselves that "it is the system" or that "they have to survive". They have no time to rest, as whatever time is not used for work or other activities to earn some money is used in church activities.** Those who are not poor among the generality of the members, mostly compromise and engage in questionable activities, with very few exceptions! They all strive to get more, but get nothing at the end of the day. **It is a miserable life, and Christianity does not provide the succour it is meant to do.**

This was the experience of the generality of the people of the time of prophet Haggai. But God was still merciful and told them why their lives have become miserable.. ***"Consider carefully your ways. You have planted much but harvested little. You eat but never have enough. You drink but never have your fill. You put on clothes but never get warm. You earn wages to put into a bag pierced through."*** ***"You expected much, but behold, it amounted to little. And what you brought home, I blew away. Why? Declares the LORD of Hosts. Because my house still lies in ruins, while each of you is busy with his own house. Therefore, on account of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth has withheld its crops. I have summoned a drought on the fields and on the mountains, on the grain, new wine, and oil, and on whatever the ground yields, on man and beast, and on all the labour of your hands."*** (to be Continued).

Have a Blessed, God-Centred, and Victorious Week.

**Further & Daily Readings: Ephesians 1:9-14; 1Peter 5:1-4; Luke 19:46; 1Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20; 2Corinthians 4:3-4; 1John 2:15-17; Jeremiah 2:7-8; 5:26-31; 6:13-15; 7:8-11, 20-24; 23:31-34; Haggai 1: 2, 4-6, 9-11.**

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