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We now move on to the third question: What is the Purpose of Service? To answer this question let us attempt a summary of the Key Verses used in this series so far: 'Occupy Till I come' (Luke 19:13); and 'live for Christ, who died and was raised for them' (2Cor.5:15). Stringing these two together, it is safe to say that Service should be a Christian's life Full and Complete devotion. In short, Service should be his life. This is clearly expressed in this week's key passage, 'doing good things (Service) should be the way we live our lives;' and also it is the purpose for which we were created as God's Accomplishment/ Masterpiece/Workmanship/Handiwork in Christ Jesus! Therefore, Service fulfils the purpose of our creation and re-creation in Christ Jesus. Hence the emphasis last week that having received of the New Life in Christ, we cannot live any other type of life again, but a life for the One who gave us the New Life. There are many reasons why this should be the case, and we will examine some of the basic ones briefly in the rest of this week's devotional:

'God planned for these good things to be the way we live our lives,' and this was before we were ever brought into this planet called earth.² Hear Him [God], "For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].³ It is like God spoke of Prophet Jeremiah, that before he was formed in the womb, God knew him, approved of him as His chosen instrument, set him apart and consecrated him as His Prophet to the nations before he was born. So, Jeremiah's resistance and arguments were trite and amounted to nothing in what his Maker, had decided to do with him.⁴ Think about this for a moment, does it not blow your mind? But go back to the beginning of our key passage, this you, that was and has been made God's Accomplishment/Masterpiece, was a dead person, as you wallowed in sins and wrong doings, causing great offence to God because of the spirit of disobedience in you, and so was using what was meant to glorify the Almighty God for the purpose of your arch enemy satan, who had imprisoned you.⁵ This should sink in. You/we were living out of sync with our nature; and it should be uncomfortable for anyone to live contrary and against his nature and the grain of his life. But such was all of us, until the grace and mercy of God reached us, and were made partakers of the New Life in Jesus Christ, and thereby returned to the Shepherd of our soul.⁶ It is therefore a contradiction, and an abnormality for anyone who has been restored not to function in what he was designed to be – Serve, do the good things he was designed to live out as his way of life. And this way of life is the 'Good Life,' something people run to all the wrong places for, and hence they never find it.⁷

In the second place, the purpose of Service is to enable Christians to, walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way.⁸ This is about living and conducting our lives in a way that is normal, agrees with our recreated person – Congruency; Integrity [Integral], and Responsive to our Lord. It is about living in conformity with our real being, or otherwise not really living. To do otherwise is to allow a continuous internal conflict, which if not quickly and properly resolved will cause a breakdown of the real self. It is a confused identify which accounts for our emotional and psychological challenges, which finds expressions in negative and even evil actions and behaviours; and this is painfully on the increase throughout the world. It is about not recognizing the Lord, your Maker, being rebellious and deserving of appropriate punishment. For it is not acceptable for one to continue to live under his lord and live in disobedience and not be severely punished? Therefore, not to serve is a clear statement to a lack of knowledge, rebellion, and a negation of the redemptive work in a life.⁹

The purpose of Service in the third place is, 'bearing fruit in every good work, growing in knowledge of God.' Here we see the thought of being alive, maturing and being responsible.¹⁰ Link this with the idea of the Good Works/Good Things/Good Life, that were prearranged and made ready for us to live. Then, when a Christian is not serving, such a person is spiritually dead and runs the risk of being cut off, gathered and burned, so as not to perpetuate the disease of disobedience, worthlessness, and the evil spirit of satan which has been allowed to return to such a life! Such a person has knowingly or unwittingly forsaken His Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, and enthroned satan as his master, to whom he now gives worship and enslaved once more.¹¹

"... giving thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light." This is the fourth purpose of Service, to live in thanksgiving to the Heavenly Father who had not only Qualified us but also made us inheritors of heavenly treasures, initially the preserve of Saints, but now coming to us redeemed mortal and sinful beings. Ignorance about the inheritance of Christianity has made many to belittle or even lose



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and go away from Christianity. The quality or the reality of Christianity is not to be measured by the way of life of Christians – human standards, as important as such measure is, but rather by the attributes, the atoning work, personality, and glory of Jesus Christ the Head and Initiator of Christianity. The proper knowledge and understanding of All that Jesus Christ represents will make following Him, serving Him, and living for Him a great delight and the only ambition worth pursuing for everyone. And this will be done from the standpoint and heart of gratitude continuously.¹² It is worthy of note that the downfall of humans was further compounded by the act of ingratitude. When humans knew God, their refusal to acknowledge Him and be thankful, despite all the revelations of Him that they had received, earned them a darkened heart and utterly foolish mind. This is my explanation for the depravity that is characteristic of human life.¹³ The call by Moses to the children of Israel to give thanks and serve God with the totality of their being can now be fully appreciated from this purpose. The deliverance and journey of the Israelites from the captivity of Egypt to the Promised Land foreshadows and mirrors the Christian's life and eternity journey. **So just like it was appropriate for the children of Israel to be admonished and warned of the necessity to be thankful and serve God as they cross the Jordan to possess the Promised Land, Christians are also admonished and warned to give thanks and to serve God as they journey to their Promised Land – a new Heaven and a New Earth.**

In the fifth place, in addition to being qualified and given an inheritance of the saints, we are also endowed with resources/graces and called co-labourers with the Almighty God. The purpose of the endowments is that we have what it takes to serve, and as co-labourers, the need for Service is further heightened because of this privileged position. Co-labourers with the Almighty God? He made all things, without the support of any spirit or human agency, and yet He is calling mere mortal, sinful, and broken humans to work with Him. **This fact should more than excite us. But I think that rather than excite us it frightens us, hence we run away from Him. But we run away to fulfil the plans of satan and satisfy our lusts.** This attitude of running away, which is also responsible for the many religions of the world, is quite offensive and frustrating to God, who has expressed it severally. Hear Him in one of such instances, ***"I was found by those who did not seek Me. To a nation that did not call My name, I said, 'Here I am! Here I am!' All day long I have held out My hands to an obstinate people who walk in the wrong path, who follow their own imaginations, to a people who continually provoke Me to My face, sacrificing in the gardens and burning incense on altars of brick, sitting among the graves, spending nights in secret places, eating the meat of pigs and polluted broth from their bowls. They say, 'Keep to yourself; do not come near me, for I am holier than you!'"***¹⁴ So, the lack of understanding and appreciation of the call of God upon our lives make us to serve satan instead, and we do so with enthusiasm and passion, claiming that our own religion is better than the other person's. In this way we live in rebellion, and a life which does not display responsibility and accountability for the resources and the privileged position that Christ has made possible for us to occupy. And this is why we deserve punishment in the Lake of Fire.¹⁵

A final point to consider is that we are being built into a House whose foundation is made up of the Prophets and the Apostles, with Jesus Christ as the Chief Corner Stone. But to effectively build this house, each one is expected to make his dedicated contribution using the graces/talents/gifts they have been given. This point is very important because while the ultimate house awaits the consummation of eternity, each Christian as a part of that House, needs to be occupied by the Holy Spirit. A Christian cannot function or live the Christian life effectively and successfully without the presence and help of the Holy Spirit, so a Christian will suffer greatly because of the deficit and lack of commitment to this building. But a dedicated and committed Christian will be displayed as an accomplishment of what the grace of God can do in the life of a Redeemed mortal being. All of these aspects of the purposes of Service, taken together, is to bring Praise and Glory to Jesus Christ. This is the ultimate Purpose of Service, and of the Christian life. That our lives will continually display the Praise and Glory of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and the Head of the Church. Therefore, not to serve, not to grow, and not to bear fruit, is NOT Christian, hence such people are cut off from the body of Christ, the Vine, and burned.¹⁶

Saved, No Longer To Live For Yourselves!

Have A God Centred And Focussed 2026.

Further & Daily Readings: Eph.2:1-10; Col.1:9-14. 1.Eph.2:10; 2. Eph. 1:9-10; 3. Eph.2:10; 4. Jer.1:5-8; 5. Eph. 2:1-3; 6. 1Pet.2:10-12,24-25; 7. Jer.2:12-13; 8. Col.1:10; 9. Isaiah 1:4-6; Luke 12:47; 10. Col.1:10; 11. Rom.6:6,16,20-21; 12. Col.1:1-14; 13. Rom.1:18-25; 14. Isaiah.65:1-5; 15. 1Cor.3:8-9; 4:1-2,7; 2Pet.1:3-4; Isaiah 30:9-10; Rev.20:10-15; 16. Eph.1:10-14; 2:5-7; 4:15-16; Jn.15:2, 6.