Message for Lighthouse April 7th 2013 Abbreviated Version

This Year’s Theme - Immanuel God With Us

Recap so far:

* Immanuel - God with Us - makes the Gospel Good News, to us all. More than a Christmas cliché
* Evidences of Immanuel = Life of Sonship; Life of Power; Life of God-likeness; and life of Divine Favour
* Who is this God with us? Almighty, creator of heaven and earth - macro and micro
* He is also the God who seeks a love relationship with us - like a Father - full of grace and truth. The Bible records Gods total plan of salvation

Today's title:

God has a Wonderful Purpose for You!

Outline:

* His Purpose for you is part of His Overall purpose for the planet - God’s Eternal Purpose For Mankind
  + E.g. If you started a new job, you would probably be shown around the whole factory/business so you would have an idea where you fit in. This would give you better understanding and motivation to do your work well
  + So many Christians have no idea of what it’s all about.
    - *“I’ve got problems, sickness, emptiness, depression etc. therefore I need Jesus to fix me up!”*
    - *I’m sure there is a God and Jesus is the best option*
    - *I was brought up a Christian and I’ll always be one*
    - *I don’t want to go to hell, but heaven and Jesus is the way*
    - *I just believe what I’m told etc etc*
  + The **Word of God** (Bible) is the itinerary for the journey of life*!*
* Ps 8 and Hebrews 2 and Ephesians 1:1-10 alludes to the Great Purpose of Life:
  + **Psa 8:5-8** *For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas*.
  + **Heb 2:7-10** *Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*
  + *(NASB) For it was not to angels that he subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.Instead, someone has testified somewhere: “What is man that you are mindful of him,for the son of man that you care for him. You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor,subjecting all things under his feet.”In “subjecting” all things (to him), he left nothing not “subject to him.” Yet at present we do not see “all things subject to him,but we do see Jesus “crowned with glory and honor” because he suffered death, he who “for a little while” was made “lower than the angels,” that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.For it was fitting that he, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering.*
  + **Ephesians 1 :1-12.** *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the holy ones who are (in Ephesus) faithful in Christ Jesus: grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will,for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved. In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his gracethat he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth. In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ.*
* Gods plan for family extension involves our growth and training via Jesus Christ His Son (Logos)
* God’s Plan involves:
  + **Jesus’ death on The cross** - it removes sin,
  + **The sending of the Spirit** - seals the work of the cross and empowers us for living – the sign of good things to come
  + **The Word** encourages us to grow into Christ's likeness holy, righteous, wise, discerning - training for eternal purposes!
* **These eternal purposes** may well include ruling the universe, maintaining, perfecting and beautifying all creation - co- workers with God!
  + What does God’s Word say:
    - Note Ps. 8:4 *When I see your heavens, the* ***work of your fingers****, the moon and stars that you set in place*
    - *7 You have given them rule over the* ***works of your hands****, put all things at their feet:*
* The Kingdom of God is the ruling Family of God. And those who become a part of that Family are destined to rule the earth with Jesus Christ for 1,000 years. They will become kings and priests, ruling and teaching in the World Tomorrow. Thousands of millions will learn to live God’s way and be born into His ruling Family during this period. Then, after the Millennium, the billions who died before Christ’s Second Coming without having had an opportunity to know and understand God’s way to salvation will be raised in a physical resurrection. They will be given the opportunity to become Sons of God during this period of judgment (Rev. 20:11-12), as we learned in the last lesson. These additional thousands of millions will be added to God’s spirit Family at the conclusion of God’s plan for physical mankind.
* It has been estimated that 40 billion (40 thousand million) people have lived from the time of Adam until now. It would be difficult to accurately estimate the number of people who will yet be born and enter God’s Kingdom during the Millennium and Great White Throne Judgment periods. There no doubt will be multiple billions. But let’s suppose that **200,000,000,000** (200 billion) are ultimately born into God’s Family. Since God is busy working, creating and sustaining what He has created (John 5:17), He knows His Sons would not be happy unless they, too, are working and producing. And so what could keep this incredibly huge Family of God Beings busy for all eternity?
* The Encyclopaedia Britannica estimates that there are more than 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (10 sextillion) stars in the universe. This figure is virtually impossible to comprehend. If an estimate of **200 billion Sons of God** is taken as a possibility, **that means each member of God’s Family would be responsible for maintaining and developing 50 billion stars**, and their attendant planets—enough to form an entire galaxy!
* Our awesome potential is to be born into the ruling Family of God, receiving the very power of God! Together, all the born Sons of God will ultimately be given jurisdiction over the entire universe!
  + - Jesus is doing it right now!
      * *who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high,* (Heb. 1:3)
  + When Jesus returns – this mortal shall put on immortality ..... – we shall be clothed with an immortal spiritual body! Intergallactic
  + **We – the Spirit-born sons of God have a great purpose** – Romans 8:14-17
    - *For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, “Abba, Father!”he Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him*
  + **We will judge the angels!** 1Co 6:3 *Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?*
  + **We shall be like Jesus!**
    - 1Jn 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is*.
    - Rom. 8:28-30 *We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.*

2 Peter 3:7-13 ***The present heavens and earth have been reserved by the same word for fire, kept for the day of judgment and of destruction of the godless. But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought (you) to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion,******waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.***

## God is WITH YOU – IMMANUEL – to ensure this can take place

His spirit is the guarantor of your salvation

## God’s Challenges to Us - Today:

1. Get rid of all sin – through repentance and the blood of Jesus
2. Be filled continually with the Holy Spirit – it’s not so much “tongues” but receiving by faith and living out the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22)
3. Pursue the purposes of God daily
4. Take stock of your progress – am I improving? Am I getting over moods, negativity, bad habits, thoughts, etc
5. Don’t forsake worship services and fellowship Are you in a small group – cell? So much of discipleship is done here!
6. Volunteer for service – don’t be unemployed!
7. Be a witness – be bold – testify - let you light shine!
8. Are you developing your talent – studying – learning, reading – giove God something to work on!
9. Are you teachable, correctable, (soft-hearted), or stubborn and recalcitrant (hard-hearted)?
10. How’s your prayer life, your relationship with God – hot or cold?

# Questions for Discussion:

* What difference does it make to know your purpose?
* Name some of the purposes for life that the average person has
* Name some of the purposes for life that the average Christian has
* What do you think of the purposes for the Christian as outlined in this sermon?
* Can you think of any other purpose God has for us?
* What changes should be making today in order to be fully on track towards God’s eternal purposes?