

Circuit Riders — 304 professions of faith

Purpose & the Prosperous Soul

I. God Works From The End Product Back

Romans 8:29-30 *For whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** to be **conformed** to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. NKJV*

προορίζω - to determine the horizons ahead of time. Free will, antinomy, ineffability of God

συνμορφω- to have the same form

Illustrations—

Not so much a PLAN, but a **GOAL**. It's a contest -- in a football game, there is not one plan, but there are many plays. **WHATEVER** it takes!

Building a house. What kind of house? We **are** the house!

Application—God is building a dream house. We are the house! But it's a battle, a war, are revolution!

Also— an **eternal companion**

An **impact on history**

Acts 17:26 *From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the **times** set for them and the **exact places** where they should live. NIV*

II. Scars Are Trophies Not Blemishes or Mutilations

They represent times when you should of quit, when you might have died. **But the GRACE of God KEPT you!**

2 Corinthians 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **Father of mercies** and **God of all comfort**, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the **comfort** with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

8 *For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we **were burdened beyond measure, above strength**, so that we despaired even of life. 9 Yes, we had the **sentence of death** in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, **NKJV***

οικτιρμος--from the sound of mourners (Mrs. Balbuena)

παρακαλησις--to come along side and exhort. "The Bishop of York comforts his troops"

Comfort—to bring to strength

Chaos, disorder, injustice — or righteousness, peace, joy

You can be **deformed** by pressure!

When in a foxhole, you want to be with gnarly, scarred up veterans who walk with a limp. You know they won't get scared and run.

III. Every Battle Increases Our Power

Psalm 84:5 *How blessed is the man whose strength is in You;
In whose heart are the highways to Zion!*

*6 Passing through the valley of Baca, they make it a spring,
The early rain also covers it with blessings.*

*7 They go from strength to strength, (chayil to chayil)
Every one of them appears before God in Zion. NASB*

Illustration—George Washington in the French and Indian War

 Battle Ribbons

- “Dying in Faith”—Martyrs pave the way for victory for the ones who come behind. (make a difference)

POWER — **Gratitude, Forgiveness, Generosity** “make it a spring!” The desert blossoms like the rose

IV. Time Is On Our Side

2 Timothy 4:5 *But you, **keep your head in all situations**, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. NIV*

God is working **through grace in time** to bring you to your destiny.

Illustration—Joseph. The Dream, The Pit, Potiphar’s House, The Prison. The Palace

God’s Purpose For Your Life Is Settled IN **HIM**

Rejoice, Pray, Thanks -- this IS the will of God

Romans 8:18-24 (Message)

That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens.

All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

Romans 8:28 *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are **called according to His purpose.** NASB*

THE CALL OF THE PURPOSE—God's PURPOSE is like a signal emitting device. Eternal, unchanging, outside of time and space.

**Contingencies, degrees of fulfillment,
multi-generational destinies.**

V. Invitation

- Have you a grasp on God's Purpose? The big "P"!
- Have you been defeated or ennobled by your battles?