

## Out of this World

### Called and Appointed

Talk about what it means to be Out of this World. Not talking about- Christian space cadets- who are untethered from scripture/biblical realities. We are a people of another kingdom- we are not part of the kingdom of this world.

We live in this world but we serve another King. Most of us here today are probably Christians. It would be interesting to know- why each of us became a Christian/believer/follower of Christ? Whatever your answer might be consider this ...

**Jn 15:19 “If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.**

Explore what it means that I (God) chose us out of the world?

**Jn 15:19 (TPT) If you were to give your allegiance to the world, they would love and welcome you as one of their own. But because you won't align yourself with the values of this world, they will hate you. I have chosen you and taken you out of the world to be mine.**

First ... most significant- God chose us.

Think about this- God, the Creator- out of millions of people- chose you and He chose me.

**Gal 4:9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God**

You/I a known by the Creator- master of-universe- He knows us- every thought/hurt/pain.

Second ... He chose us out of this world.

We remain physically in the world- but somehow

He has taken us out of this world.

Paul is making a distinction between ...

>children of God and children of this world

>those governed by the Lord versus those governed by the god of this world

>those who bear the image of God versus those who bear the image of this world

Third ... some insight into why God chose us ...

He chooses those who refuse to align themselves **with the values of this world.**

**John 14:12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.**

We are no longer here to fulfill the world's purposes, but God's purposes for our lives.

We have been chosen for something far bigger than we can imagine.

**Jn 15:16 “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.**

We may believe that we independently made the decision to choose God/follow God.

The truth is- God chose us- in some way the Creator- Initiator- initiated a relationship w/us.

God makes this offer available to everyone and chooses those who respond with a yes.

I choose you- to select for oneself with the idea of showing kindness and favor to.

I appointed you- to set in a place w/sense of purpose.

In other words ...

**>God chose us (selected) each of us  
... to show us kindness and favor**

**>He appointed us (set each of us in a particular place in this life)  
... giving to us purpose, meaning,  
and significance**

We live in a very troubled world- disconnected from any sense of a divine Creator/God.

As a result-nation is facing a serious identity crisis

You see this in ...

>high suicide rate

>confusion over gender/sex-ignoring biological realities

>ESG- Environmental/Social/Governance

>DEI- Diversity/Equity/Inclusion

Rational thought- the facts/truth about reality- have been replaced by emotions and feelings.

Our experts, like our latest supreme court justice, cannot even define what a woman is.

People- searching for someone to tell them ...

>who they are

>where they belong

>how they relate to the world around them

**As a result of rejecting God people are trying desperately to be someone other than who God created them to be.**

In essence they are rejecting the Creator's purpose for their lives- thus the confusion.

Evolutionary/atheistic type thinking is at the root of the problem.

Every person- created to reflect some aspect of God- we- created in His image/bear His image.

Our identity starts with understanding who God is and what He says about who we are.

Jn 15.16- gives us some idea as to who we are and God's purpose for our lives.

**Jn 15:16 “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.”**

Why were we chosen and appointed ...

>First ... **so that we would go and bear lasting fruit**

- in Christ our lives have purpose
- we are earthen vessels but we contain a rich treasure
- the HS lives inside of us
- God has given each of us a unique aspect of His life/grace to reflect to the world around us
- every person has value and something to contribute to society

>Second ... **so that whatever we ask of the Father in Jesus name He would grant to us**

- you do not give that kind of authority to just anybody
- we have been adopted into the family of God

-we are heirs of God, fellow heirs with Christ

-we are trusted members-God's family

We have- high calling/great responsibility to

>search out/know God's heart

>discover Truth

>uncover Kingdom principles hidden in His Word

... why...

>so we will know the heart and mind of God

AND THEREFORE WE WILL KNOW...

>what we should ask of the Father in Jesus name

Too often we throw out prayers w/o considering if it is God's will to even answer those prayers.

God is not obligated to answer every prayer we shoot up to heaven just because we pray it.

**1 John 5:14-15 (NASB95)**

**<sup>14</sup>This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.**

**<sup>15</sup>And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.**

What is the key- **must ask according to His will**  
Once we know what the will of God is we can ask in faith knowing our requests will be answered.  
But to know His will we must take time to know God and understand His heart.

We must become students of God/His Word.

**Isaiah 55:7-9 (NASB95)**

**7Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; ...**

Why?

**8“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.**

Left to our own devices- our desires are primarily carnal/self-seeking.

**9“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.**

Before God is going to hear our prayers and do whatever we ask- we must first ...

- >put aside our ungodly thoughts/ways and
- >allow our minds to be renewed and our affections purified

WHY ...

- >so our thoughts and our heart's desires will align w/His thoughts/heart's desire.

It is those prayers that God can and will answer.

**Jn 15.19 says- He chose us out of this world**

Now ... if God chose us out of the world ...

- >what parts of- world do we participate in?
- >what parts should we avoid?
- >as followers of Christ- how do we now relate to the world in which we live?

**1 Corinthians 7:29–31 (NASB95)**

**29 But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none;**

**30 and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess;**

**31 and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.**

**First- the time has been shortened ...**

- >this season in God's eternal time frame has an end/that end is drawing nearer
- >God is asking us to live with a greater awareness of the eternal

**Jam 4:14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away (Pro 27:1).**

Not very encouraging- but we do NOT know what tomorrow will bring so we should ...

- >live each moment of each day to-fullest
- >take advantage of every opportunity the Lord gives us.
- >live in such a way that our lives exalt the Lord and fulfill God's call on our lives.

**Eph 5:15-17 (NASB95)**

**15Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,**

**Be careful how you walk ...**

**Be careful how you live NLT**

**Walk circumspectly NKJV**

**Live purposefully and worthily and accurately AMP**

**Watch your step. Use your head. MSG**

Our life here on this planet has significance and it should not be lived happen chance.

We have been born-again to a living hope and there is a supernatural element to our lives.

**16 Making the most of your time, because the days are evil.**

Making the most of your time ...

**Make the most of every opportunity NLT**

**Redeem the time NKJV**

**Buying up each opportunity AMP**

**Make the most of every chance you get MSG**

Time is the most precious commodity we have.

You cannot get it back- each moment slips into eternity past- either for good or for bad.

**17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**

What is the ultimate purpose of being careful with our time and how we live our lives?

To understand God's will- so we can fulfill His purpose for our lives.

Again- looking back to 1 Corinthians 7 ...

**29 But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none;**

**30 and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess;**

**31 and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it;**

**for the form of this world is passing away.**

What Paul is saying is that ...

- >in our relationships
- >in times of weeping or mourning
- >in times of rejoicing or celebration
- >when buying a new house or a new car
- >in going off to work every day
- >in our academic pursuits
- >in whatever it is we are doing

... we must be careful of anything that would draw us away from our devotion to God.

Obviously some distractions cannot be avoided.

Some distractions are actually responsibilities we have towards- spouses/families/work/church.

Just to make things perfectly clear for husbands-

when Paul says ... **those who have wives should live as if they had no wife** ...

He is not saying that men can now ...

- >ignore the needs for their wives/families
- >spend more time with the w/guys
- >watch more TV/sports

He is saying- every aspect of our lives, even our family life, needs to be lived for- glory of God.

Actually- for husbands this means we are called to a higher calling in- relationship w/our wives.

How do we live as a couple/parents/family and ...

- >love our spouses/families/children and take care of our relationships
- >glorify the Lord in the middle of our everyday life responsibilities

Obviously there is a place to take time for entertainment/to relax and unwind.

But we need to develop a growing awareness of the eternal purposes of God for our lives.

**1 Cor 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.**

We might ask ourselves- are there things in our lives- activities, possessions- that ...

>dictate to us how we use our time, our resources, or our energy?

>are there things-have become our masters instead of us being their master?

(i.e. gaming, sports)

**(Everything we own, every activity we are involved in- takes a sliver out of the pie that we call our lives- you can only divide the pie in so many ways.)**

Paul <sup>(1Cor7.30)</sup> also speaks of being careful in how we

>weep or mourn, and

>rejoice or celebrate

**King Davids's son- sick- David wept, fasted, and cried out- God for healing while his son was alive. As soon as his son died- David got up, washed his face, and worshipped God.**

His servants asked him about his response ...

**2 Sam 12:22–23 (NASB95)**

**22He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows, the Lord may be gracious to me, that the child may live.'**

**23“But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”**

1st- David had deep insight into eternal realities and a deep faith in God/His Word.

He knew he would see his son in the next life- he believed in resurrection, life after death.

David- OT- had greater faith- many NT believers.

2nd- David understood when- time to mourn and when it was time- get up and go on with life.

I know there are different stages of mourning and people mourn in different ways.

When Paul says ...

**and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice**

He is encouraging us not to lose our eternal perspective and faith in God even in ...

>earthly tragedies or loss

>or in times when things are really going good- not to forget God/get distracted

Lastly in 1 Cor 7:30-31 Paul says ...

**1 Corinthians 7:30–31 (NASB95)**

**<sup>30</sup> ... and those who buy, as though they did not possess;**

**<sup>31</sup>and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.**

In other words we need to ...

>hold things lightly- use them while we have them but be ready to release them

>houses, cars- we might be asked to give them up at any time

>every thing we have belongs to the Lord and we need to hold them lightly

**1 Tim 6:7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.**

ASIDE: KEEP IN MIND THAT ...

>every possession we own demands some part of our time, energy, resources ...

-to use/clean it/maintain/repair

It is good to take some time to evaluate how everything impacts our lives ...

>is there anything hindering your devotion to God in some way?

Each of us must ask God what part of- world we can be involved with and what part we cannot.

That answer will be different for each one of us.

**Colossians 3:1–4 (NASB95)**

**<sup>1</sup>Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.**

**<sup>2</sup>Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.**

Ask God for a greater awareness of the spiritual realm and His eternal purposes for our lives.

As the things above become our focus the things of this world will have less hold on our lives.

**<sup>3</sup>For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

**4When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.**

Who is going to be revealed with Christ in glory?

... those whose lives are hidden in Christ.

The more we pursue the things above the more they will become a reality in our lives, and the less of a hold this world will have on us.

## **Conclusion**

Consider what Paul says ...

**Colossians 1:13–14 (NASB95)**

**13For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,**

**14in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

We are not of this world- we have been transferred into the Kingdom of God.

Jesus makes a very strong statement ...

**Luke 9:62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”**

When they plowed a field with an ox, if they looked back they would drift off the straight rows they were trying to plow.

The same is true for us- if we look back and yearn for parts of our old life, it will cause us to get off the course God has set us on.

**Faith is a risk, an adventure that requires the denial of oneself ... The tragedy of easy Christianity is that existence has ceased to be an**

**adventure and a constant risk in the presence of God, but has become a form of morality and a doctrinal system ... This is just paganism, “cheap” Christianity, with neither cost nor pain. Soren Kierkegaard**

In other words we create belief systems that keep us safe rather than taking faith chances.

I do not want to be found unfit for the KofG.

There are many ways that this world still plays a bigger part in my life than it should.

However, we are all a work in progress.

We serve a good and gracious God who understands our frailties and HE IS FOR US.

Remember ... the Creator ...

- >has chosen you to show favor towards you

- >appointed you to do great things

- >He has filled you with His HS

- >He has imparted a unique portion of His grace to you

- >He has given you spiritual gifts and natural abilities so you can build up/bless others

God wants us to be successful- He is not working against us.

God is for you and God is for me and He has great plans for our lives.

As Jesus said- pursue the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.

## **Story about Forest Gump**

Forest Gump- a slow-witted yet kindhearted man from Alabama.

**Forest Gump died and found himself standing at the Pearly Gates of Heaven. St. Peter said, "Welcome, Forest. It is getting pretty crowded up here and you must take a three question entrance exam.**

**Forest Gump said, "Okay, let's get at it".**

**St. Peter said, "Here are the three questions ...**

- 1. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?"**
- 2. How many seconds are in a year?**
- 3. What is God's first name?**

**Forest Gump said, "The first one, which two days of the week begin with the letter "T" is easy. The answer is Today and Tomorrow."**

**St. Peter looked surprised and said, "That was not what I was looking for but I am going to have to give you credit for that answer."**

**"The second question," said Forest Gump, "How many seconds are in a year? The obvious answer is twelve."**

**St. Peter was confused and asked Forest Gump how he got that answer. Forest Gump said, January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ..."**

**St. Peter said "Not what I was looking for but again I will have to give you credit for that one, too."**

**"And the last question," said Forest, "What is God's first name? It's Andy."**

**"Andy?" said St. Peter, in shock. "How did you come up with 'Andy'?"**

**"We used to sing about it." Forest broke into song, "Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am His own."**

**St. Peter opened the gate to heaven and said, "Run, Forest, Run!"**

Forest Gump had- different way- looking at things  
Sometimes it is good for us to step back and  
examine our lives from a different perspective.  
God, what should I ...

>change about my life?

>take out of my life that is hindering my  
walk with You and Your call on my life?

>add to my life that would further my walk  
with You and Your call on my life?