The Purpose of Life and God's Plan

We come into the world, we prepare for life, we work, we have children and grandchildren, we enjoy this life to a greater or lesser degree, and then it all ends at the grave. It seems that this is all life has to offer us.

On closer inspection, we can see that most people around the globe simply use up this life and never bother to find out whether there is anything after death.

We believe that the most important thing in this short life we live is for each of us to know exactly God's plan for us human beings, to know what purpose God had when He created man.

We notice that when we are asked to give an answer about what will come once this life is spent, and what we must do to live forever in the Kingdom of God, the vast majority of people live in total ignorance.

Offers of Salvation Born of Ignorance

Because of this ignorance, we can see today how many multitudes of people are manipulated by various theories that claim to explain how one can reach the Kingdom of God.

One of them is the theory of purgatory. This teaching, found in Catholicism, says that you can obtain the forgiveness of sins by paying for indulgences, which secures your entry into the Kingdom of God and, with it, eternal life.

In Orthodoxy we find memorial offerings and prayers for the dead, then the "toll houses" the soul of the departed must pass through, and many other things by which people hope to buy, one way or another, the forgiveness of their sins.

Most evangelical, Protestant and neo-Protestant churches are in the same situation. The general conviction is that if we admire God for what He has done for us, if we believe in the sacrifice on the cross, if we confess our sins, if we have a form of godliness, we will obtain salvation, which consists only of the forgiveness of sins.

Salvation in the Light of the Scriptures

It seems that very few realise that repentance and faith in the sacrifice on the cross are only some of the things a person must do at the beginning of the life of faith. It is easy to see that a lack of knowledge of the Scriptures is one of the things that keeps people in this ignorance. (Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. Matthew 22:29)

Most of us stop at repentance, at the work of the cross… at the covenant made in the waters of baptism, at the forgiveness of sins. For many, the work of salvation stops there, without realising that **God's plan** provides for both the restoration and the **perfecting of the character** of man.

Almost no one believes that, in order to be found worthy of the life that awaits us in His eternal Kingdom, we must grow until we reach the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. (And he gave some, apostles; … and some, pastors and teachers; for the **perfecting of the saints**, … till we all come … unto a perfect man, **unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ**. Ephesians 4:11-13)

This plan of God was made in eternity, before man was created. The heavenly Father's purpose was to make brothers for the Lord Jesus, and it is the most complex and magnificent plan ever devised.

This article is an extract from the booklet Transformed into the Image of Christ – Unmodified Word – Spiritual Revival Resources, available free online in .pdf format.

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Source: *The Purpose of Life and God's Plan* — Unmodified Word
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