

Lesson Notes:

Beyond Salvation

When God created us and then saved us (through the blood of Jesus Christ and his saving Grace), he had a plan for our lives. Many Christians are content with attending church on Saturdays or Sundays but not fully developing a personal relationship with Christ and effectively serving him and living for him in their daily lives. Below is a discussion of why we were created, God's expectations of us and how we may more fully live lives pleasing to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Scriptural Principles

- 1) **We are created for Good Works** – Paul tells us in **Ephesians 2:8-10** that we were created for good works. In **Genesis 2:15** the Lord put Adam into the Garden of Eden to attend to it. Peter tells us in **1 Peter 4:10** that we have each received a gift from God.
- 2) **He saved us for a Purpose** – Paul tells us in **2 Timothy 1:9** that we have been saved for a Holy purpose.
- 3) **It's serious to squander your talents** – In **Matthew 25:26-30** Jesus tells us in a parable the fate of a person that squanders his/her talents.
- 4) **We will actually be judged based upon our efforts** – In **2 Corinthians 5:10** and **Romans 14:10-12** Paul tells us that we will actually be judged regarding our efforts to serve the Lord.

So how can I become active in God's service?

- 1) **Through Worship** – David tells us in **Psalms 147:11** that worship is pleasing to God. Jesus encourages us in **John 4:23-24** to worship him in Spirit and in Truth.
- 2) **Through Discipleship** – In **Romans 8:29** Paul tells us that we are predestined to be conformed to God's image.
- 3) **Through Ministry** – **Jeremiah 1:5** tells us that he chose us for a special work. Paul tells us in **Romans 12:1** to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to God.
- 4) **Through Missions** – In **Matthew 28:19-20** Jesus final instructions to his disciples prior to ascending into Heaven was to go and spread the Holy Gospel.
- 5) **Through Prayer** – Many followers of Christ underestimate the power of prayer. In **1 Kings 8:56-60** Solomon delivers a prayer pleasing to the Lord. Solomon's prayer included the following:

In the above passage Solomon delivers a prayer pleasing to God. It includes:

- Acknowledgement of God's presence
- Desire for God's will
- He prays for the desire and ability to obey God's commandments
- He asks for help with each day's needs
- He prays for the spread of God's word

6) Through Trust - When you are active in God's service trust in him – In 2 Chronicles 20: 1-13 Jehoshaphat trusted in God and gave him honor and praise when an invasion of Judah was inevitable. As a result God turned the enemies of Judah against one another and Judah was spared.

7) Through Fellowship – In Philippians 4:2-3 Paul urges two of his believers that were arguing to “be of the same mind”.