

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – September 29, 2020

The lord be with you.

Have you ever wondered why you're here? Why God put you here? Why now at this time, with your particular gifts and talents, with your life situation, with the things that have happened to you? Why are you here? Mark Twain said, the two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why. Why? That is a big question. And I've talked to a lot of people over the years that live through life, not knowing why they're here because of a lot of hurt, a lot of wrong turns, a lot of emptiness. Well, let's see if we can't figure out why. You and I are here. And let's go straight to the top. Let's go to God's word to find out God's purpose for you and me.

I'm looking at the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthian Christians. 1 Corinthians Chapter 1. I'm going to read just the first couple of verses, Paul called to be an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God. Paul obviously knows why he was born, "called to be an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sactinese, to the Church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints." I wanna focus on this phrase called to be saints, called... That means a life's calling, we're talking about vocation here, and that is that every Christian in Corinth and every Christian today is called called to be a saint. Now don't let the word saint scare you because the Bible never uses the word sit to refer to some special class of Christian someone a cut above the rest, someone who lives apart from the world. The word Saint translates the Greek word Hagios, and it's a word that simply means set apart. And so the temple in Jerusalem was referred to as Hagios set apart, set apart for God to use.

The Ark of the Covenant in the temple was referred to as Hagios set apart for God's service. The priests serving in the temple were referred to as Hagios, not because of anything in them, not because they were better than, but they were hagios because God set them apart for him to use. When our two sons were little guys, I started noticing tools coming up missing, other boys might borrow a hammer here, a screwdriver there and well, and not return it. So what we did one Christmas, as we get Rett and Wyatt each his own toolbox with each one's name on his toolbox for him and him only to use. So we could say that those two boxes that they were hagios, they were set apart for Rett to use, set apart for Wyatt to use. And so, dad, keep your hands off.

I have a friend who when people ask him what his work is, he'll say, Well, I am a servant of Jesus Christ and I do plumbing to pay bills. Now, my friend, understands what the Bible is talking about when it says that we are set apart for God to use in this world, we are holy to Him. And saint is the Apostle Paul's favorite word for Christian. So sometimes I will greet a Christian friend with hi saint Tom, saint Ruth, saint Bryan. I'd like to do that just to remind myself and others that God has set us apart for himself for his service in this world. And so Paul writes, "to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints." Again, the Greek word for Saint is hagios. The Greek word for sanctified is hagiazo. Hagios. Hagiazo. You hear the link, it's the same root word, one is a noun. One is a verb. To those who are sanctified set apart in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, that is to live a set apart.

So you see, it is because of who we are in Christ Jesus, it is because we are joined to Jesus in all of His righteousness, that we are holy to God, so that God calls us to live set apart lives in this world. It's exactly what Jesus is driving at, what He calls His followers, the light of the world, the salt of

Water from Rock

the earth, that God has set you apart as different from the world to make a difference in the world.

Now, we would not have imagined going in the temple in Jerusalem and just taking one of the golden vessels out of the temple and using it for ourselves. Why? Because it had been hagiozo, set apart for God's service. And so you and I, in Christ Jesus, we are set apart for God to use in this world. And that's our reason why? And what it means for you to live a life set apart for God, it's gonna be something different from what it means for me to live a life set apart to God, but viva la difference because we are each set apart for God's special use.

Mark Twain said, The two most important days in your life are the day you were born. In the day, you find out why. Well, I hope this Bible passage today has helped you to find out why. That great man of God and great scientist, George Washington Carver, I mean, the man who discovered 300 uses for the peanut, and he did so much more. Well, Mr. Carver described how he began each day, he said that for all of his life, he got up at 4 o'clock in the morning, he went out into the woods and he talked with God, and he said that there, God gave me my orders for the day.

That was a life sanctified in Christ Jesus set apart, called to be a saint in this world. And so are you my sisters and brothers in Christ? Saint Martha, saint Henry, saint Debra and me too.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler in the pilgrim way. Thanks for listening until next time.

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