

Finding Your Purpose, by Paulina Quesda

Many do not recognize that there is something much greater in life than simply existing. God's divine plan and purpose for our lives is far greater than we are able to comprehend, or even imagine. He created and designed us to be intricately woven together within the body of Christ, and it is His desire that we become a pure vessel for His glory. Often, we fail to grasp the meaning of this. However, if we allow the Holy Spirit unrestricted access in our lives, God can then create a perfect spiritual character in us. We must choose to do what is right by following His laws first.

First, we must realize that when the Bible talks about "perfect" it is referring to the process of becoming perfect, not acting in perfection itself. Through His grace, we obtain the ability to bear fruit. If we consciously practice the fruits of the Spirit, we will begin to understand that our character and development comes with the transforming of our minds. When an individual begins to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit he or she begins to bear fruit in every good work. The person grows in wisdom, knowledge, and purpose.

For example, when I first walked through the doors at EPIC I literally had no clue to all the reasons for which God had me here. It was not that I doubted the direction of the Holy Spirit, but I simply wanted to know what my future was going to hold. As we all know, God does not reveal His plans for our lives all at once; He reveals in increments. God knew that I had an issue with blind trust; and, yes, at times it seemed unbearable. It was difficult to lay everything down--including my past--and move forward. God began to purge me of my selfishness, pride, doubt, and anything that was affecting me negatively.

At times, I had to (and still have to, though not as often) confess, repent, and move on, but God was merciful to me in spite of my sinful nature. What I failed to understand is that every moment and action counts toward the purposes that God has for me. When I look back now, I realize that my ministry initially began by being obedient in studying, intercession, serving in my church, and, more importantly, submitting under a body of believers. One lesson I have learned is that when we are faithful to the little things, it is then that God moves us onto larger responsibilities and tasks.

The Bible states in 2 Timothy 1:9, "Having than gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them." Also, in Romans 12:6a it reads, "[For] each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that." The Lord is calling us to a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus.

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Announcements

Volunteer opportunity

EPIC graduate, and faculty member, Rev. Sean Lowry is looking for someone who is qualified and desires to teach a Bible study at Eskaton Village, a senior living/assisted living facility, in the Roseville area on Sunday afternoons.

For more information contact Sean at 916-390-1309.



News 10's Coats For Kids

Thanks to you, EPIC Bible College was able to donate two-dozen coats to help keep children warm this winter.

As we reach out, we lift others up.

Passion with Purpose by Joel Thompson

December is a remarkable time of year that truly permeates the air with the spirit of the season. Although, it may seem as though we have to go out and shop for those all important and relevant trinkets to demonstrate appreciation and love, it's more important to remember the real reason we celebrate this joyous time of year.

When God sent His Son Jesus for us to receive His salvation, grace and mercy, I don't think man realized what a passionate love God has for us. The Lord gave his only Son with so much love that we really should celebrate the birth of Jesus everyday throughout the year. Unfortunately, it seems that at this time of year we all rally around the malls and various boutiques to buy those "all-important" gifts to share with those we love. We need to realize that IF we spent the same amount of time honoring and worshiping our precious Lord and Savior, we would come to a deeper understanding of the love and passion He has for us. However, it seems that we completely lose focus on spending time in communion with Him. Shouldn't we have the same commitment and passion to be in His word and communing with Him during this incredible time of year? SO, why don't we?

The month of December is a reminder for Christians to really give the Lord our very best and commit our time and talents to Him. A passion to explore the malls and the internet for those ever elusive gifts for "loved ones" leads many to completely lose the ability to focus on His presence during this busy time of year. Unfortunately, if that could happen to Christians, just think how easy it is for those who don't really know Him.

Christmas is the most celebrated time of year to openly share the great news of His birth to those we encounter and tell about His unrelenting love for us all. It is wonderful opportunity for us to give back to Him in this way. What a joy! And what a blessing!

My prayer is that we all give our most earnest efforts to sharing the wonderful news of the birth of our Lord and Savior to all we encounter in the malls, at the grocery stores, and everywhere we turn; so they too can come to know God's almighty and relentless love for all. I pray that those we speak to will be able to share the love and joy of this wonderful season and its real Reason with passion. We need to help all God's children to understand and receive The Great News that Jesus Christ is born and came so that we may enjoy a personal and intimate relationship with Him!

May you all have a wonderful and blessed Christmas!



[Tongue-in-Cheek] Recipe for Christmas Peace by R.J. Young

Gather Ingredients

- 2-5 Happy children
 - 1 Home – any size will do, but should be in direct proportion to the number of people being served.
 - 12 hrs Housework, *divided*
 - 1 Evergreen tree
 - 3 lbs Decorations, *divided*
 - 6 hrs Food Prep, *divided*
 - Set of 12 Christmas China
 - Paper plates (if needed)
 - Extended family (to taste)
1. Place children in a suitable sized home then fold and knead and set aside to rise to the necessary level of cooperative.
 2. Add 6-8 hours of housework, depending on size of children.
 3. When housework is well done, add the evergreen tree, with 2 lbs of the decorations sprinkled on top. *If some get broken you may be tempted to beat children to obtain a smooth consistency of cooperation, but for best results refrain.*
 4. Garnish remaining decorations around the home.
 5. On the day of the event combine remaining hours of housework and children.

6. Mix thoroughly.
7. Meanwhile, mix cooking with the heatable portion of the home and heat for 6-12 hours. Chill as necessary.
8. Children may need to be folded and kneaded again but only if they haven't risen to the occasion.
9. Complete cooking approximately ½ hour before serving, garnish as necessary.
10. Mix largest child with Christmas china. If necessary beat child, have him or her sweep up broken pieces, and use the paper plates.
11. Welcome extended family into your home.
12. After the completion of the meal, it is time to experience peace. Leave the dishes to one of the following: the guests, the men, or tomorrow. Then put your feet up and enjoy your favorite Christmas songs.

Disclaimer: this recipe is intended solely for your entertainment and is not meant to be followed. Neither the author nor EPIC Bible College condones the beating of children.



This Week in Church History with Pastor Charlie

December 19

401: Pope Anastasius I died in Rome. He was a friend of the great church fathers Augustine and Jerome, who spoke of him as a man of "great holiness."

1843: Charles Dickens published "A Christmas Carol" in England.

1891: Charles Uncles became the first African-American Roman Catholic priest ordained in the US in Baltimore, Maryland.

1958: This was the date of the first radio broadcast from space (a recorded Christmas message by President Eisenhower: "To all mankind, America's wish for Peace on Earth and Good Will to Men Everywhere")

December 20

1552: Death of Katherine von Bora, the former nun who married the German reformer (and former priest) Martin Luther. They married in 1525, when Luther was 42 and she was 26, and had six children.

1803: The United States completed the Louisiana Purchase from France for \$27 million, doubling the size of the U.S.

1820: Missouri imposed a \$1 "bachelor tax" on all unmarried men between ages 21 and 50.

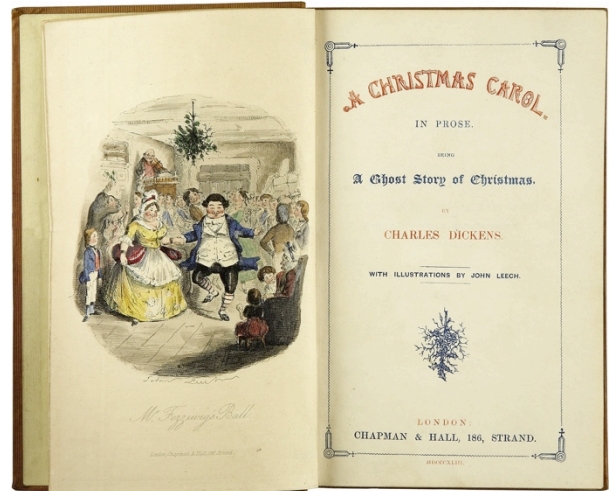
December 21

1117: Birthdate of Saint Thomas à Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury from 1162 until his murder in 1170. He is venerated as a saint and martyr by both the Catholic and Anglican Churches. His conflict with King Henry II over the rights and privileges of the Church led to his brutal assassination in Canterbury Cathedral by four of the king's knights.

1620: 103 "pilgrims" on the ship Mayflower landed at Plymouth Rock in the Massachusetts colony. Due to the harsh winter only 51 were still alive a year later to celebrate the first Thanksgiving.

1909: The first junior high school in America was established in Berkeley, California.

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In the end, God took away my discouragement and replaced it with joyful anticipation of what He is going to do through me. Jeremiah 29:11-12 encourages us, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" It is my prayer, that this wonderful truth has now been revealed to you and may the Lord continue to help you achieve His purposes for your life!

GIFT WRAPPING SERVICES

Every weekend in December you are invited to get your gifts wrapped beautifully, and benefit a worthy cause at the same time.

Freedom Christian High School is wrapping gifts at Sunrise Mall: Fridays, 6:00 p.m. to close, Saturdays & Sundays during mall hours, and on December 24th wrapping will be available for you last minute shoppers.



Church History, continued from page 4

December 22

1216: Pope Honorius III officially approved the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), founded in 1216 by St. Dominic. During the Middle Ages, many leaders in European philosophy were Dominicans and many sailed with Portuguese and Spanish explorers to the Americas as missionaries.

1882: Thomas Edison created the first string of electric Christmas tree lights.

1921: The National Presbyterian Church of Washington, D.C. was assigned the first U.S. commercial radio license given to a religious broadcaster. Within five years there were over 60 other licensed religious broadcasters.

December 23

1790: Birthdate of Jean Francois Champollion, the French Egyptologist. In 1822 he was the first to decode the hieroglyphics of the Rosetta Stone (found in 1799). Until then no one had been able to read ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics for many centuries.

1950: Pope Pius XII declared that the tomb of St. Peter had been discovered beneath St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

1967: President Lyndon B. Johnson met with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican.

December 24

1818: In St. Nicholas Church at Oberndorf, Austria, the world heard "*Silent Night*" sung for the first time.

1893: Henry Ford finished building his first useful gasoline engine.

December 25

336: This is the earliest known year that Jesus' nativity was celebrated on December 25th.

800: At Christmas Mass in the Vatican, King Charlemagne knelt at the altar to pray, and the Pope crowned him Imperator Romanorum ("Emperor of the Romans") in Saint Peter's Basilica, creating the "Holy Roman Empire."

1642: Birthdate of Sir Isaac Newton, one of the greatest physicists in history.

1821: Birthdate of Clara Barton, the nurse who founded the American Red Cross.

1923: In Washington, D.C., during Calvin Coolidge's first Christmas as President, the first electrically lit Christmas tree was displayed in the White House.

Pre-purchase your 2011 EPIC Bible College Yearbook.

You don't want to miss out on all the memories from this fantastic school year—along with the many pages highlighting the various ministries and outreaches provided by you, our students. The cost for this beautiful, full-color yearbook is only \$40 during the Winter Quarter: That's about half the cost of yearbooks at other colleges! Don't miss out! *Below: the 2011 EPIC yearbook cover.*



If you know someone who is graduating this year, send your CONGRATULATIONS in a special and unique way: place it in the yearbook. Contact one of our yearbook staff members: Cassis Friday, Sonia Kotka, Alexandra Renkvist, Joel Thompson, Paulina Quesada, Timothy Wellington, and Ruth Young for details and pricing. Or, you may contact Prof. Colburn

Hurry though—this offer is only available through January 7, 2011.



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