

Sermon Notes

Sunday, May 6, 2012

Title of the Message: **Living on Purpose**

Scriptures: II Thessalonians 2:13-17, Matthew 5:13-16

Five images from Paul and Jesus, give us great pictures about our purpose as followers of Christ.

#1 – we are the first fruits of salvation. As with Old Testament first fruits, we are set apart, worshipping, joyful examples of people for whom salvation makes a difference!

#2 – we are people who have obtained the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. What is glory? When applied to people, it is ‘significance’ or ‘importance.’ When applied to God we add, ‘a visible manifestation’ and majesty/beauty.

#3 – salt. In Jesus’ day salt was extremely precious, even used as money. Salt also is ‘flavor-giving’, ‘flavor-enhancing’, vital for life, thirst-making and a great preservative. We are called to be all these in the world.

#4 – light of the world. Can you believe Jesus, THE light of the world, calls us to be lights of the world too? Even dim bulbs, put together can generate good light.

#5 – city on a hill. Jesus is stating a fact: when we love each other, love and serve God, we simply can’t be missed. Our neighbors and friends will see us and see the difference being Christian makes.

Thanks be to God we can have such a great purpose for living! Amen.