

CALL TO COMMITMENT #2

COMMITTED TO GOD'S UNCHANGING PURPOSE

HEB 6:17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed [it] by an oath

NIV Heb 6 17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised he confirmed it with an oath.

God's purpose is unchanging. It is reflected in the person of Christ who said " I am come to seek and to save that which is lost." "He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

For 88 years we as a movement have moved toward His purpose: To reconcile lost and fallen man back to himself.

There are three points about God's unchanging purpose:

CLARIFYING GOD'S UNCHANGING PURPOSE.

Clarifying it from scripture.

EPH 1:3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly [places] in Christ:

EPH 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Go back to Heb 6 16, 17 God wanted His unchanging purpose to be understood so He confirmed it by an oath.

ACS 15:14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

Fast forwarding to the end of time John saw in REV 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Thus every prophet, apostle, pastor, missionary have been invited to go on a mission with God.

2CO 5:19 and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

2CO 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech [you] by us: we pray [you] in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Not only do we see God's unchanging purpose clarified in scripture, but we see it clarified in history.

Clarifying it from history.

God, throughout history, has appointed special times for nations to be in certain places. Time is "kairos" meaning "opportune moments or epoch - making occurrences."

DNL 2:20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

DNL 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: Russia's falling opened the door for word to be preached and bibles to be distributed.

Outpouring of the Holy Spirit in USA in 1900's- A/G 1914

The Protestant Reformation in the 16th century.

ACS 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; WHY?

ACS 17:27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

We have clarified God's unchanging purpose from a scriptural and historical stand point....now look with me at what it means to be:

CALLED TO GOD'S UNCHANGING PURPOSE

God calls men and women to his "Unchanging Purpose."

The call of Abraham was a call to his unchanging purpose in Gen 12 1-3 "that all the peoples of the earth would be blessed."

The call of Moses in Exo 3 7,8, 10 "I have indeed seen the misery of my people...I have heard them crying out... and I am concerned about their suffering. V 8 "so I have come down to rescue them...to bring them out. V10 So now go. I am sending you to bring my people out of Egypt.

Moses was called to engage in God's unchanging purpose.

God calls Movements to his "Unchanging Purpose."

The Nestorians whose missionaries spread the gospel from the Middle East up to the Silk Road

The Reformation

The Moravians

The Salvation Army

The Assemblies of God

World wide A/G gain 23 churches a day during the last decade: that his one an hour for the last 10 years straight.

In the last decade worldwide we gained 16 million believers.

In 1999 we gained a new church every 24 minutes. Someone joined the A/G every 13 seconds.

If we grow at the same rate for the next 10 years as we have the last 10, at the end of 2009 we will have 352,787 churches in the world and 64,313,160 in church.

We have grown from 300 who met for the first Gen. Council to 38 million according to David Barrett in the World Christian Encyclopedia. This makes us the largest evangelical church the world has ever seen. We are seen to be in the "golden age of missions".

We cannot divorce our Pentecostal experience from our Pentecostal responsibility. We go after the lost.

We have looked at Clarifying God's unchanging purpose (via scripture and history...and Called to God God's unchanging purpose (men and movements). Now please note with me how God captures us by his unchanging purpose.

CAPTURED BY GOD'S UNCHANGING PURPOSE

Captured Because it is Incomparable

Judson the Apostle to Burma said " The call of God captured me like nothing ever has."

Phi 3 8 Paul says "I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul was obsessed 1) to learn who Jesus was 2) to learn what Jesus would have him do. J. W. Tucker "Ark. Missionary killed in the Congo, now Zaire. He was asked before leaving to go to that troubled nation, "If it becomes intolerable, how will you get out?" His answer, "I am not worried about how I will get out, but I am worried about I will get in."

Jim Bennet's Motto "I have seen the vision, for self I cannot live, Life is less than worthless, unless my all I give."

Ill. Two young women rescued in Afghanistan want to return.

Why? They have been captured by God's unchanging purpose.

Captured because it is unfinished.

Today there are more than 6 times more people that have never adequately heard of Christ than were alive when Jesus gave that commission.

If we could tell 1 person a second, it would take 54 years to share Jesus' name with them.

Ill. J. Evan Vernonaeff went to Russia in 1921, our first AOG missionary there. Evan graduated from a Baptist seminary and became pastor of a Baptist church in New York city. He receives the baptism in the Holy Spirit in Glad Tidings Assembly under Robert Brown pastor on a Wednesday. He went the next Wednesday and received. 3/4ths of his congregation followed him into Pentecost. Later God said "Return Russia. His parents had escaped Russia in the 1800s. From 1921 to 1940 he raised up 150 churches, and had 17,000 believers. Went through starvation, cold temperatures, and typhus.

In 1940, Stalin has Vernonaeff arrested and sent to Siberia. They were made slaves. Sis. Vernonaeff was finally released in 1964, but Evan was never heard of again. He was buried on the cold tundra of Siberia.

This helps us with out perspective. Who are we in the ministry for?

Why are we doing what we do? Are we giving our best to Jesus?

Do we have our eyes on how we are being personally treated (or mistreated) or on advancing the cause of Christ?