

WOODMEN VALLEY CHAPEL Jan 3-4, 2004

HEY! WHO ARE YOU?

You think you are someone caught between cultural expectations and Biblical truth and restrictions.

FIVE SIGNS YOU DO NOT KNOW WHO YOU ARE:

1. False assumptions about yourself
2. Comparing yourself with others
3. A bad attitude toward others
4. Having a critical spirit
5. Unable to see yourself as God does

FIVE WAYS YOU CAN DISCOVER WHO YOU ARE:

1. Stop believing enemy's lies about you
2. An interest in Jesus expectations—not others
3. An ability to see others as God does
4. You understand and apply the power of encouragement
5. You see yourself as God sees you

THREE UNALTERABLE FACTS

1. GOD KNOWS YOU AND CREATED YOU FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE.

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.

Isaiah 44:2 This is what the LORD says -- he who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you:

Ps. 139:16-17 Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Eph. 1:11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Jeremiah 29:11 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.

2. GOD HAS EQUIPPED YOU WITH SPECIAL GIFTS TOWARD THE SATISFACTION OF HIS PURPOSE.

Rom. 12:4-6 *Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.*

Free gift test available at www.otm.org – go to Interactive Resources.

3. GOD WANTS YOU TO DISCOVER HIS PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE.

Eph. 1:18 *I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...*

You think you are someone caught between cultural expectations and Biblical truth and restrictions.

You are actually someone uniquely made, wonderfully treasured and perfectly positioned to accomplish God's will.

FINALLY:

Until we correctly answer the question, "Whose am I?" we will not correctly answer the question, "Who am I?"

Until we correctly answer the question, "Who is the purpose of my life?" we will not correctly answer the question, "What is the purpose of my life?"

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS THE KEY

GOD'S PROMISES:

Rom. 8:29 *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

Phil. 1:6 *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

December 31

Yesterday

You shall not go out with haste, for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard
—Isaiah 52:12

Security from Yesterday. ". . . God requires an account of what is past" ([Ecclesiastes 3:15](#)). At the end of the year we turn with eagerness to all that God has for the future, and yet anxiety is apt to arise when we remember our yesterdays. Our present enjoyment of God's grace tends to be lessened by the memory of yesterday's sins and blunders. But God is the God of our yesterdays, and He allows the memory of them to turn the past into a ministry of spiritual growth for our future. God reminds us of the past to protect us from a very shallow security in the present.

Security for Tomorrow. ". . . the Lord will go before you . . ." This is a gracious revelation—that God will send His forces out where we have failed to do so. He will keep watch so that we will not be tripped up again by the same failures, as would undoubtedly happen if He were not our "rear guard." And God's hand reaches back to the past, settling all the claims against our conscience.

Security for Today. "You shall not go out with haste . . ." As we go forth into the coming year, let it not be in the haste of impetuous, forgetful delight, nor with the quickness of impulsive thoughtlessness. But let us go out with the patient power of knowing that the God of Israel will go before us. Our yesterdays hold broken and irreversible things for us. It is true that we have lost opportunities that will never return, but God can transform this destructive anxiety into a constructive thoughtfulness for the future. Let the past rest, but let it rest in the sweet embrace of Christ.

Leave the broken, irreversible past in His hands, and step out into the invincible future with Him.

Oswald Chambers