

So we've been looking at **John 3:30 (read on screen)**

As we've gone through this each week one thing has become a major theme.

In thinking about what this means for my life I'm drawn to this thought:

(I can't look to this world what can only come from Christ)

My deepest longing – all I need – my identity – my worth – my help – my good.

Only Christ can bring what I ultimately need.

The hard part is this....how can I live a life where I enjoy life and the lesser things without them becoming the main thing.

The list is endless really:

athletics – academics – band – tv – music – relationships – trends – culture.

some big, some small, but all these pursuits in and of themselves are harmless for the most part.

So how do I make sure they remain lesser things as I'm involved in them?

How do I use them to make impact without being impacted?

Simple answer – John 3:30 – I understand that HE>I

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| I Understand | His plan is greater | His name is greater |
| | His purpose is greater | His reward is greater |
| | His provision is greater | He is greater. |

But I also understand that as I live in this world that is filled with pursuits that are lesser I must daily decrease. If I don't I'm putting myself at risk for not only settling for less but also seeking to find in those things what is only found in Christ.

PURPOSE _ IDENTITY _ LOVE _ BELONGING _ A FUTURE AND A HOPE.

Last week we said there were 4 things we needed to understand. (there's more, but we go with 4)

BY "UNDERSTAND" I mean grasp, lay hold of, cement in your thinking, apply to your life.

We looked at 2 last week:

1. We are meant to be spent for God and His glory – that purpose is above all. GOD'S GLORY
2. Our identity is found in Christ....everything else is a distant 2....not on the map. Success is seen in Him.

3. –understand the need to learn and trust the truth of God's Word.

I must know Him and His Word...I must trust the TRUTHs of Scripture. THIS IS FAITH.

Though I don't understand it all I press on and REACH for Wisdom...I pray for Wisdom.

I must affirm absolute truth....that being Jesus Christ....the Word of God.

I'm not going to try and convince you tonight of how we can trust this is God's Word.

We accept this by faith...the Bible speaks for itself....it is what it is.

There are people who have died for it....fought for it and fought against it.

This will always be the case.

The fact is that the Bible is here...we have it....and we can accept all that it says as Truth or we can view it all as suggestions.

Your life will be lived in those two camps....I pray you trust it and then I pray your life exposes the fact you believe....if you do...your life, your pursuits will be different...

This subject is huge.....**WHY?**

CULTURE and SCHOOL and WORK is waging war against this Truth and is selling, communicating, disguising truth to be anything, relevant, whatever you choose to follow.

So long as it's not harming others....go for it....that's what culture is saying.

The Bible is saying something different....The Bible's end goal is not to please you but communicate what a holy, creator, God has established as good and right....despite how we "FEEL."

So basically many have taken the law of God, the Word of God and we've decided it's too painful, hard, exclusive and we've made it easier....that's what "TRUTH IS RELEVANT" means.

The Bible is tough, is truthful, is hard to follow, is painful at times, but remember HE>i..This is His Story.

Do you believe this? Do you trust the Word of God? If you don't the HE>I lifestyle will not be a pursuit.

LISTEN TO PAULS WORDS TO TIMOTHY in **2 TIM. 3:10-17**

If you believe and trust the truth of God's Word – CONTINUE IN THAT.....in that you will be wise, able, and equipped for every good work....that's our goal in this.

4. –understand the need for healthy, Godly relationships.

we started in on this last week...the need for the people in your life to be going the same direction. and by direction we mean pursuing Christ...they won't be perfect but they are pursuing.

The people in your life are either poison or powerade. They're killing you or bringing life to you
this is probably the hardest thing you'll ever have to change.

because if you have healthy relationships these other 3 things we've talked about and the issues of sin in our life are usually either confronted or encouraged by the people we're around.

Some of us have people in our life that are poisonous....they are not good for us and we know if we stand firm on truth we will lose whatever it is we feel that relationship brings. We can walk away, we can influence the situation or we can remain still and drink the poison.

I realize that sounds extreme but I've experienced this...we have countless examples in Scripture, in history, and if you're honest you've either went through it or you're going through it right now.

So here this.....allow God to intervene...that may not mean you just walk away...it may call for that. But it may call for you to say no to them....and not just stop there...you may be challenged to share the Gospel...which is never a bad idea. I'm not sure what you need to do but I do know that if you are in a unhealthy and ungodly relationship something needs to change.

that is why who you choose to be with...in relationship with...is huge...GUARD THAT.

the biggest influence of your life is your friendship circle – be mindful of who you hang with.
they will have great influence over what and who you're be spent for...

we were meant to be spent for God and His glory

LOOK AT TITUS for a minute – (guys group)

2 things stood out to me while reading it with them Monday Night.

1. I see the need to worry about you: **Titus 2:7-8** – don't worry about changing others...but just worry about showing YOURSELF to be a model of good works.

2. I see the need to show grace to those not going the same direction but then also to not allow them to poison you....so in that you remove yourself from their company – Look at **TITUS 3:10-11**

The message is simply in TITUS – He was there to show grace to some pretty evil people.

But in the end Paul warns him to “have nothing more to do” with the ones who are warped and sinful.

This isn't the only warning to watch your company....to show grace but then also to simply remove yourself from that person lest you fall into the same situation.

IN THE END...This is an amazing set up for our year together. The foundation of our year is simple.

GOD IS GREATER – Our motivation and foundation for living a CLEAN LIFE.

What end do you come to....what change needs to come for you.

In how you view this WORD – In how you're being spent each day – Where do you find your identity?

Who are you allowing to influence you...who are you attached with? Poison or Powerade?

Where is your worth found? Do you believe, trust, walk in the fact that HE>I?