

Your Purpose Proceeds from Your Identity

– Matthew 5:13-16

1. Identity Is _____.
2. God also has left His _____ on humanity.
 - I. Discover our purpose as we engage in Scripture.
 - 1) Guard against spiritual _____.
 - 2) Fulfil the _____ for which God called us.
 - A. Stagnation as a Christian means we have _____ our sense of purpose.
 - B. Disciples of Christ don't _____ for a life of stagnation.

This identity has been _____ on your heart.

- II. Created for this Purpose – Image of God is the _____.
 - 1) Created in the Image of God makes us _____.
 - 2) Created in the Image of God means we are _____.
 - 3) Created in the Image of God means we have _____.
- III. _____ - _____ in Christ to live out this purpose. Romans 8:28-30
 - 1) Obeying the Gospel is the first step in finding our _____.
 - 2) May It _____ be!

Daily following Christ means He can daily _____.
Psalm 23:1-3 = God daily renews my commitment to living out His purpose.



Messenger

Welcome! We are glad you chose to worship with us.

Praise and Harmony Class

When it comes to identity, there is something special and unique about the church that belongs to Christ; we only use singing in our praise and adoration of God in public worship. The only instrument we read about in the New Testament is the human voice (there are three references to the use of harps in the book of Revelation, but those are symbolic). Keith Lancaster wrote, “As a child of God, you can only offer God one thing that you possess that He does not... YOUR PRAISE! The human voice is capable of making wonderful music, and it can make all of Heaven rejoice if we lift our voices together in harmony and praise the God from whom all blessings flow.”

This is the reason we are beginning a new class on the last Sunday Evening of each month. “Praise and Harmony” is a method of song learning that emphasizes the blending of our voices in congregational worship, and improving our ability to sing in 4-part harmony. What we will discover is that everyone’s voice is important when it comes to Praise and Harmony in the Lord’s Body of believers.

We are living in a time when Churches of Christ are moving toward placing talented musicians up front for a well-rehearsed musical presentation, the quality of which is not dependent upon the participation of the congregation. We believe in a different approach. We are choosing to invest in the very time-consuming, highly challenging work of equipping every Christian to sing, as well as teaching the reason why.

Our goals for this class are: reclaiming a high level of worship participation, learning the importance of planning and preparing for worship, maintaining a blend of old and new songs, and teaching four-part harmony. In short, presenting to God and to one another an intelligent and enthusiastic time of worship.

In order to help us increase participation, on the table in the back of the auditorium is a clip board that you can list some of the songs that you really love to sing. Instead of the song leader picking songs he likes to sing, we want to ensure that everyone has a voice. This is not intended to be a list of “authorized songs, but a list of songs we love to sing together. Praise and Harmony is not just a method of learning songs, it is a way to grow a congregation.

For more information about the Praise and Harmony method or to learn more about how we can grow in our worship together, visit praiseandharmony.com or acappella.org. Check out the beautiful music that is made available through the Praise and Harmony Ministry and discover how congregations of the Lord’s Church are continuing the legacy of “offering to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess His Name” (Hebrews 13:15).

By Dennis Baker

Sermon Summaries

Morning *Imprint of God – Purpose Proceeds from Identity – Matthew 5:13-16*

God calls us to a specific purpose as we follow Christ. He calls us to be salt and light. What an amazing way to define our lives and what an honor to think that our actions can lead to someone who is watching us, make the decisions themselves to follow Christ and to glorify the Father. There is no higher calling and no more important reason to live.

Evening *Praise and Harmony – Hebrews 13:15*

The voice is the most beautiful instrument ever created. When we sing together in harmony, God is honored and each one of us is encouraged. We hope you will take this opportunity and bring your voice along to learn better sing the songs we love. Tonight, we will spend our time learning the principles of the Praise and Harmony method of improving congregational singing and learning songs that help us offer God the Praise He deserves.

Important Message from the Elders

It is vitally important that congregations are served by qualified, spiritual elders. We remember that Paul appointed elders in congregations in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch; and he had deep relationships with the elders in Ephesus, for example. (Acts 14:22; 20:17ff). Elders are by definition older Christians with years of experience living the Christian life. The current Mount Vernon shepherds (bishops and pastors) each have more than 50 years of experience in the Christian Way. One of our concerns is to keep a continuity of qualified leadership, so that there will be no weakness of leadership that could be exploited by the “savage wolves” that Paul warns about in Acts 20:29. With this in mind, we regularly look to the congregation for men that meet the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and are also willing to serve.

With this in mind, the shepherds would like to present our brother Dale Cureton as a brother both qualified and willing to serve. Dale has been a Christian for about 40 years and has been a long-time resident of the area. He served as a deacon at Mt. Vernon on two occasions for a total of about 13 years. During this time he was a mainstay of the teaching and worship ministry at the Pioneer Home as well as being active in other ministries. Dale also spent about 20 years during this time as an adult leader with the Boy Scouts of America. In recent years Dale and Kim’s work has taken them to Williams, AZ. While worshipping there Dale was active in teaching, preaching, and song leading. No elder can be fully successful without the support of a faithful Christian wife, and Dale will have the love and support of his wife Kim to whom he has been married 19 years. Dale has expressed his love and enjoyment of the fellowship here and his desire to serve and to see us grow.

During the next few weeks, the congregation will have the opportunity to ask questions, make comments, or even make any scriptural objection to Dale’s service. You may ask questions of Dale or make comments to the elders in person or in signed correspondence. If no scriptural objections are raised, the elders will appoint Dale to his ministry on Sunday, September 19.

*Yours in Christ,
Larry, Morris, and Gordon*

Schedule of Services

Bible Class	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:30 am
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wed. Ladies Class	11:00 am
Suspended until Sept 15 th	
Wed. Evening Study	7:00 pm

Minister Dennis Baker

Shepherds

Gordon Gower Morris Guest
Larry Miller

Deacons

Don Dillahunty Rick Pinney
Spencer Guest Troy Trammell

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ATTENDANCE

Bible Class	53
AM Worship	88
PM Worship	39

FINANCES

Weekly Budget	\$3995
Weekly Contribution	\$3594

Things to Know

Last Sunday Evening Worship

Tonight we will begin a monthly class on the Praise and Harmony method of singing. The purpose of this monthly class will be to enhance our song worship, which will build up the body. We will learn to harmonize with the method; improving our ability with new songs and enhancing the principles of worship that glorify God.

Ladies Retreat

As was previously announced Mt Vernon ladies decided to not move forward with planning/hosting the September retreat due to very low registration.

The Copper Basin camp board decided to continue on with hosting the retreat and are planning to have a ladies retreat which they have planned. It will still be September 10-11 at Copper Basin.

If you would like to attend there are registration form on the back table.

Men’s Retreat

September 17 -18

September Calendar

Upcoming events and birthdays calendar are on the back table

Worship Duty Roster

For the men who serve September schedule on the back table.

JESUS ANSWERED,

“The work of God is this to believe in the One He has sent.”

JOHN 6:29

PRAYER REQUESTS

Glynn Gower will be having heart catherization at YRMC tomorrow to check for a possible blockage. Please pray for successful procedure.

Richard Erno genetics testing all complete, now a little closer to moving forward with his bone marrow transplant. He is now 1 month old.

Carol Ann Burdine’s son Paul Rigo, showing 100% improvement from COVID. He is out of the ICU and off the ventilator.

Continual Prayers Health Reasons/Treatment

~ **Rusty & Bonnie Parker** many difficulties with Rusty’s dementia

~ **Brandon West (Lori Buttons finance)** come to Christ

~ **Suzanne Lacey (friend of Gowers)** kidney and lung cancer.

~ **Brandy Aquafedda (Denise Miler’s niece)** cancer treatment.

~ **Carolyn Fields (friend of Larry Miller)** has terminal cancer.

~ **Allen Till (Dolores Buehler’s son-in-law)** cancer treatment

~ **Rita Bowden (friend of Sally Guest)** stage 4 cancer.

Our Shut-ins

Marjorie Trammell