

# Lesson 1: Christ According to Prophecy

## Introduction:

- Purpose is an essential for living
  - Purpose is "why?"
  - It is the reason we ask, what is our purpose?
  - Purpose provides reason for life
  - Purpose in some endeavor is something to resort to when you begin questioning why you are doing what you do
  - Purpose can have temporary objectives and more future objectives
- The world thinks of its own purpose
  - Purpose driven by selfishness can lead to greed and a host of deceitful lusts
  - Individuals have their self-constructed purpose guided by their own wisdom or from certain facets of ideas the world generates, propagates, and advances
  - Thus, the world has a course in which see its own temporary results, but reasons to get to the final stage of its overall course.
- With the world turning the truth of God into a lie and worshipping and serving the creature more than the Creator has abandoned God's purpose.
  - It is simple that to understand our purpose, or the purpose of creation we would seek the Creator.
- In this series we will explore some of God's objectives to fulfill His purpose.
  - As God is eternal, His purpose will abide forever, and as Christ is God and is victorious over the kingdom of sin and death we are to understand God's purpose is eternal in Christ.
- We will examine what oftentimes doesn't see the light of day, but is masked by selfishness or the cares of this life to ever be considered, that is, God's purpose.
  - A task worthy to be pursued

## Preview:

- Two Features of God's Purpose
  - Eternal
  - In Christ
- Christ According to Prophecy

## Sermon:

### Two Features of God's Purpose

- **Ephesians 3:8-11 (:11)**
  - "according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:"

- "eternal"
- "in Christ Jesus our Lord:"

### 1. Eternal

- Although we may understand from logic that for God to author time, He must be eternal
- Yet, the point of :11 doesn't only concern God, but His purpose (of course, anything part of God is eternal as He is)
- Nonetheless, it will help us to understand His purpose
  - We are learning of His purpose and the objectives to fulfill it
- Well if the fulfilling of His purpose is eternal, then we could reason that the objectives to fulfill it are within time.
  - More specifically within Biblical time (Genesis - Revelation)
- The Bible has a lot to say about eternity past and eternity future; however, the Bible begins with time (in the beginning (Gen. 1:1), and the end (the end of time (Rev. 21:6)
  - There is so much we can and are to know, yet there is so much we don't; however, there is a context given to us to think of His eternal purpose

### 2. In Christ Jesus our Lord

- It should be noted that this describes Christ's deity as He is eternal; however, that isn't the direct implication we want to consider right now
- Rather, God purposes is not only in Himself, but through the express image of His person, the second member of the Godhead, Christ
- This helps us to not only understand the fulfillment of His purpose, but the objectives to get there.

## **Christ According to Prophecy**

- We want to turn to examining Christ and the objectives He carries out to fulfill His Father's eternal purpose in Him.
- To understand these objectives we are to understand the revelation of Jesus Christ, this is what the Bible is about
  - In the Bible there is two revelations of Jesus Christ that comprise the entire revelation of Jesus Christ
  - These two revelations of Jesus Christ are set forth in the categories of "prophecy" and "mystery"
- Briefly defining terms

- Prophecy
  - **Acts 3:19-21 (:21)** - "whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His hoy prophets since the world began."
  - **Revelation 19:20** - "...testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"
- Mystery
  - **Ephesians 3:1-5, 8-9**
  - **Romans 16:25-26**
- In the remaining time I want to give some overview to Christ according to prophecy
  - **Genesis 1:26** - "dominion"
    - **Colossians 1:16-17**
  - **Revelation 11:15** - "kingdoms of earth have become the kingdoms of our God"
  - **Isaiah 40:22** - creation to dwell in
  - **Isaiah 9:6ff**
  - **Daniel 2:44**

#### **Conclusion:**

- When we examine God's eternal purpose in Christ we see that which He made known since the foundation of the earth is to dwell on earth and set up His kingdom on the earth to rule from the earth.