

Lakeview Christian Center
Sunday Celebration
Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands
Pastor Keith Collins

"Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands"

Summer D&D Introduction

June 4, 2023

INTRO ... Summer D&D

...an LCC DNA Download

Something comes on the World-Scene in the 1st Cent. AD ...

...A Savior

...a Community

...Our INDIVIDUAL LIFE "QUEST"

Ps 63:1 "...my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water."

Jn 7:37 "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink."

"Thirst" = an inner void, feeling, or nagging reminder. ...it is a longing and an awareness of inner inadequacy. ...it is a word that describes a NEED!

"For a brief period of time when God created the world, perfect people walked through a perfect world in perfect union with God. The environment was lush and rich, with a menagerie of animals that inhabited the air, land, and sea. Every physical and spiritual need was fully met. There were no unfed stomachs and diseases to be feared. The gardens were free of weeds and thorns. ...Man and woman, Adam and Eve, lived in perfect union with each other. There was no unhealthy competition, no power struggle, no vengeance or recrimination. There were no secret plots or harsh words, no fear, guilt, shame, or rebellion against authority. There was understanding, communication, and love. ...There was no struggle with identity, anxiety, depression, or addiction. There was no painful personal history to overcome. There was no fear of what might happen next, no mixed motives, no struggle with inordinate desire. There was no temptation to sin. ...With God, too, there was a perfect union. People loved, worshiped, and obeyed as they were created to do. ...All was right, day after day. Life was better than anything we can imagine from our sin-scarred vantage point. ...But sadly, it didn't last long." **Paul Tripp**, "Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands", p. 1-2

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...at some level the Christian Life is about solving a personal NEED! ...BUT, it is also about a Life that is GOING Somewhere! It is about an Existence that has a GOAL (a DESTINY!!)—AND, The Daily Routines That Participate in That Big DESTINY!

...There's a Reason why the human soul loves a "Dream Big" story or a "Destiny Motivational Speech" or a "Personal Identity Encounter Moment"

"Top Gun Maverick" —"I'm a Naval Aviator! it's not WHAT I am, it's WHO I am"

At some level—THIS is part of what the Human Soul is Seeking to 'satisfy'!! ...It LONGS for a reason to get up each day and to navigate the grind of traffic, the headwinds of life, the disciplines of duty, and the heartaches of relationships!

...What is This "Destiny & Purpose" that reaches deep into my personal existence, my personality, my longing to find something significant to live for

...that is more than just a "Thirst-Slaking" Experience! ... "I'm not just a "Formerly Thirsty Human"

HINT (Found in the Setting of a Local Church in Corinth... Where Paul describes ongoing life activity)

2 Cor 3:7-8 Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end,⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?

[**Pentecost Sunday**] ...Paul is Explaining the "Time Zone" in which they now live!—The AGE OF THE SPIRIT

2 Cor 3:12-18 Since we have such a hope, we are very bold,¹³ not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end.¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away.¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts.¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

...Paul Describes a "VEILED CONDITION"
(...ie, some "Inability to See") ...Then he
describes this "VEIL LIFTING MOMENT" (v.
14-16)

— "The Veil is LIFTED!" (Individually -
the Thirst is Quenched) ...**there is a
MOMENT that Brings a New Day**

**V. 17-18 ...AND—There's Something on the
Other Side of This MOMENT!!** ...It is
"The Ministry of the Spirit"— What
is That?

...a Ministry of Transformation "Into the
SAME IMAGE" from one degree of glory to
another!

— **What is the Ministry of the Spirit?** ...It is
the Ministry of "RESTORING THE IMAGE OF
GOD IN MAN"!! = "REDEMPTION" ...ie,
"Instruments in the REDEEMER'S Hands"

Gen 1:26-31 *Then God said, "Let us
make man in our image, after
our likeness. And let them have
dominion over the fish of the
sea and over the birds of the
heavens and over the livestock
and over all the earth and over
every creeping thing that creeps
on the earth."*

²⁷ *So God created man in his
own image,
in the image of God he created
him;
male and female he created
them.*

²⁸ *And God blessed them. And
God said to them, "Be fruitful
and multiply and fill the earth
and subdue it, and have
dominion ..."* ³¹ *And God saw
everything that he had made,
and behold, it was very good.
And there was evening and
there was morning, the sixth
day.*

**Historic Human Society wants to discover & say
something like Maverick says— "I'm a _____!
It's not what I am, it's WHO I am!**

— **Christianity isn't just about personally
figuring out the claims and validity of
Jesus the Christ (although it is not less
than that and it is defined by
that!) ...the N.T talks up the story &
purpose of a people group who are
fashioned together in a particular way
and for a particular purpose.**

What's THIS Got to Do with a Study Titled— “Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands”?

Ephesians 1:3-14 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. ... ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ... ¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ... ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,*

V. 7 ...We have received—

“REDEMPTION” ...This is Our Story!
(Redemption = “a liberation procured by payment/ransom”)

...This “Redemption Story” ...is a Purpose Initiated & Formulated BY GOD—Before the World Began!

- INDIVIDUALLY ...we receive Forgiveness of Our Trespasses ...we obtain an Inheritance ...we received “Salvation”
- PLUS ...**v. 13** “you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit”

What is “the Ministry of the Spirit?”

1 Cor 12:4-7, 11-13 *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ... ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*

¹² *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

1 Cor 14:5, 12 *Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up. ... ¹² So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.*

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**...The Ministry of the Spirit—Part of
“REDEMPTION”—Involves the Spirit Using
US as Individual Members to “Build Up the
Church”**

... “The Ministry of the Spirit”
involves “Tools” (Instruments)

Eph 4:1-4 *I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—*

**Redemption's Purpose Includes “Callings for
Individuals”!**

“Perhaps the best way to understand these grand purposes is to eavesdrop on eternity. In Revelation 19:6-8, the great multitude of the redeemed stands before the throne and, like the roar of rapids, exclaims: ‘Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.’ ...Think about what they are singing. It is not, ‘I got that job! My marriage was fantastic! I was surrounded by great friends and my kids turned out well.’ It is not, ‘I defeated depression and mastered my fears.’ ...God has gathered a people who have a passion for his glory and find ultimate comfort in his rule. They are people who followed by faith and obeyed at great cost, who sacrificed and suffered, but with no hint of regret. They have found lasting satisfaction in the person and rule of the Redeemer. ...As we listen to eternity, we realize that the kingdom is about God radically changing people, but not in the self-absorbed sense our culture assumes. Christ came to break our allegiance to such an atrophied agenda and call us to the one goal worth living for. His kingdom is about the display of his glory and people who are holy. This is the change he came, lived, died, and rose to produce. This is the life and work he offers us in exchange for the temporary glories we would otherwise pursue. This kingdom agenda is intended to control our hearts and transform our lives.” **Paul Tripp**, “Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands,” p. 4-5

... WE Are Instruments in His Hands, in This Plan!

[Here's the Biblical Construction Site
Description:](#)

Eph 4:11-16 *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,*
¹³ **until we all** *attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,* ¹⁴ *so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.* ¹⁵ *Rather, speaking the truth in love, **we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,*** ¹⁶ *from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, **when each part is working properly, makes the body grow** so that it builds itself up in love.*

...This Summer's "DNA DOWNLOAD" — is about informing, awakening, and strengthening "BODY MINISTRY" (ie, the "Ministry of the Spirit"—also called "Personal Ministry")

"I'm an Instrument in the Redeemer's Hand (a Unique Calling to be a Functioning Member of the Body)—It's not What I am, it's WHO I am!"

"I am persuaded that the church today has many more consumers than committed participants. Sure, Joe and Shelia may volunteer for a specific activity like VBS or a diaconal project, but this frequently falls woefully short of the 'everyone, all the time' model of the New Testament. Our tendency toward ecclesiastical consumerism has seriously weakened the church. For most of us, church is merely an event we attend or an organization we belong to. We do not see it as a calling that shapes our entire life. ...But consider this: we could never hire enough paid staff to meet the ministry needs of the average local church. The 'passive body that pays the professionals' culture of the modern evangelical church must be forsaken for the ministry model God has so wisely ordained. To that end this book has been written." **Paul Tripp**, "Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands", p. xii