

August 13, 2023

Why Were You Made?

by George Slover

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)

In my days of youth Exxon stations advertised their product by giving away toys. Each time a purchase was made points were accumulated toward purchasing the prize. My father surprised me by accumulating enough points to win a vehicle that moved along a plastic track. When this strange car reached the end of the track, it would launch a spring loaded plastic rocket.

This gadget was designed by someone for no other reason than to entertain. It certainly accomplished its purpose. However, some times we abused its intended purpose by donning a plastic helmet (with face mask) and allowing the rocket to fire in our face.

The text above tells us that God had an intended purpose for his spiritual children. Such a purpose was predetermined in the mind of God. It is our responsibility to yield to God that we might fulfill that purpose. We were created in Christ Jesus for a reason. We must not abuse nor neglect that purpose.

First, it was God’s goal to have children that were conformed to the image of his son. The word “image” (eikon in Greek) should be easily recognized because of

the images that appear in our computer screen. In this setting the image is Christ. The gospel call is more than just a call to salvation, but a call to be Christ-like in character. Every action, choice, and word that we utter must reflect the moral purity of Jesus. When we fail, we fail to fulfill the purpose for which we were spiritually created.

Second, it was God’s purpose for his children to be the firstborn among many brethren. The first man (Adam) betrayed God’s trust and fell. The second man (the Lord) died to redeem fallen man. Jesus died that he might bring many sons to glory. (Hebrews 2:10) God wants his children to “die” with Jesus that ultimately we might attain unto the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:10) We are spiritually created for victory!

Third, God accomplished his mission through the call of the gospel. God had a predetermined plan, but man may choose to accept it or reject it. God summons us by the preaching of his word. Our daily decision is either to heed the call or refuse to listen.

God’s children have been created spiritually for a grand and noble purpose – a design far more noble than my silly, childhood toy. May we all reach for that paradise of experience – the life of our Lord!

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Bulverde Summer Series

- Bulverde church of Christ, Every Thursday June 1 - August 17

Our meeting with Mark Roberts

is scheduled for August 13-16

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

Philippians 2:1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson's lymphoma has returned and is undergoing chemo.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. He is home from rehab. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell's sister) is undergoing chemotherapy.

Tony Mauck has cancer that has spread.

Vicki Stevens has cancer and is undergoing treatment.

Margaret Vanaman is home recovering.

Syble Hargrove is in Kingsland Hills Care Center.

Dorothy Steadman is staying with Hank.

Debbie McMurray had a biopsy at MD Anderson and is waiting for a treatment plan.

Danny Dow has an infection in his spine causing paralysis.

Shirley Perkins is hospitalized with heart issues.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making s application for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

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