



Fulfilment of God's purposes with creation

Let us pray the Word for the fulfilment of God's purposes with creation.

Man as God's representative

God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, after our likeness, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth." So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon the earth" (Gn.1:26-28). You have made him but a little lower than God and you have crowned him with glory and honour. You made him to have dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet (Ps.8:5-7).

To be holy and faultless before God

Even as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless in his sight, even above reproach, before him in love. For he ordained us to be adopted as his own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of his will...He planned for the maturity of the times and the climax of the ages to unify all things and head them up and consummate them in Christ, both things in heaven and things on the earth (Eph.1:4-5, 10-11). That he might present the church to himself in glorious splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such things that she might be holy and faultless (Eph.5:27).

To proclaim God's wisdom

The purpose is that through the church the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities in the heavenly sphere (Eph.3:10-11).

The ministry of reconciliation that God has given us

But all things are from God, who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to himself and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation. It was God in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favour with himself, not counting up and holding against men their trespasses, and committing to us the message of reconciliation (2 Cor.5:18-19).

Ambassadors for God

So we are Christ's ambassadors, God making his appeal as it were through us. We beg you for his sake to lay hold of the divine favour and be reconciled to God (2 Cor.5:20).

That the earth shall be filled with the glory of God:

But the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters of the earth cover the sea (Hab.2:14).

That the nations may be blessed through us

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name famous and distinguished, and you will be a blessing. And I will bless those who bless you and curse him who curses or uses insolent language toward you; in you will all the families and kindred of the earth be blessed (Gn.12:2-3; Ga.3:7-10).

To be filled with the power of God and to reign

I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers. For I always pray to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that he may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. And by having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which he has called you, and how rich is his glorious inheritance in the saints. And what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of his power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age and in this world, but also in the age and the world which are to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has appointed him the universal and supreme Head of the church (Eph.1:16-22). And he raised us up together in the heavenly sphere in Christ Jesus (Eph.2:6).

To be filled with the love of God

May he grant you out of the rich treasury of his glory to be strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the Spirit. May Christ through your faith dwell in your hearts! May you be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love, that you may have the power and be strong to apprehend and grasp with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth of it; to know the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge; that you may be filled unto the fullness of God. Now to him who, by the power that is at work within us, is able to do superabundantly, far over and above all that we dare ask or think – to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen (Eph.3:16-21).

That God will be glorified

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honour and dominion, for you created all things; by your will they were created (Re.4:11). So then, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you may do, do all for the honour and glory of God (1 Cor.10:31). Let the word of Christ have its home in your hearts and minds and dwell in you in richness, as you teach and admonish and train one another in all insight and intelligence and wisdom; and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs making melody to God with his grace in your hearts (Col.3:16).

For the salvation of the nations

Ask of me, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth as your possession (Ps.2:8). The Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what he promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but he is long-suffering toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance (2 Pt.3:9). But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth (Ac.1:8). Jesus approached and, breaking the silence, said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days, to the close and consummation of the age" (Mt.28:18-20). For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "I have raised you up for this very purpose of displaying my power in you, so that my name may be proclaimed the whole world over" (Rm.9:17).

An intimate and personal relationship with God the Father

How lovely are your tabernacles, o Lord of Hosts! My soul yearns, yes, even pines and is homesick for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out and sing for joy to the living God...For a day in your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else; I would rather be a doorkeeper and stand at the threshold in the house of my God than to dwell at ease in the tent of wickedness (Ps.84:1-2, 10). For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you (Is.62:5). The Lord your God is in the midst of you, a mighty one, a Saviour! He will rejoice over you with joy; he will rest and in his love he will be silent and make no mention of sins, or even recall them; he will exult over you with singing (Zeph.3:17). "And I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty (2 Cor.6:18).

To act as kings, priests and prophets

And have clothed themselves with the new spiritual self, which is ever being renewed and remoulded into more perfect knowledge after the image of him who created it (Col.3:10). Now those who are made of the dust are like him who was first made of the dust; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven (1 Cor.15:49). And you have made them a

kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign as over the earth (Re.5:10). But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, God's own purchased special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you were unpitied, but now you are pitied and have received mercy (1 Pt.2:9-10).

To do good deeds

For we are God's own handiwork, recreated in Christ Jesus, that we may do those good works which God predestined for us, that we should in them (Eph.2:10).

To love God

And he replied to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the most important and first commandment" (Mt.22:37-38).

For the salvation of the Jews and peace in Jerusalem

I do not want you to miss this hidden truth and mystery brethren: a hardening has befallen a part of Israel until the full number of the ingathering of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved. As it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob. And this will be my covenant with them when I shall take away their sins" (Rm.11:25-27) ...that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory; but they would not listen or obey (Jer.13:11).

To reconcile people with God

And God purposed that through the Son all things should be completely reconciled back to himself, whether on earth or in heaven, as through him, the Father made peace by means of the blood of his cross...Yet now has Christ reconciled you to God in the body of his flesh through death, in order to present you holy and faultless and irreproachable in his presence (Col.1:20, 22).

The purpose of marriage

And did not God make you and your wife one flesh? And why did God make you one? Because He sought a godly offspring (Mal.2:15).

Courage to testify and to expect signs, wonders and mighty deeds

And now, Lord, observe their threats and grant to your bondservants freedom to declare your message fearlessly, while you stretch out your hand to cure and perform signs and wonders through the authority and by the power of the name of your holy Child and Servant Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place in which they were assembled was shaken; and they were all

filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the word of God with freedom and boldness and courage (Ac.4:29-31). Besides this evidence it was also established and plainly endorsed by God, who showed his approval of it by signs and wonders and various miraculous manifestations of his power and by imparting the gifts of the Holy Spirit to the believers according to his own will (Heb.2:4).

To fulfil God's calling

We are assured and know that all things work together and are for good to and for those who love God and are called according to his design and purpose. For those whom he foreknew, he also destined from the beginning to be moulded into the image of his Son, that he might become firstborn among many brethren. And those whom he thus foredained, he also called; and those whom he called, he also justified. And those whom he justified, he also glorified (Rm.8:28-30).

To destroy the works of the devil

The reason the Son of God was made manifest was to undo the works the devil has done (1 Jn.3:8). If we admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness...My little children, I write you these things so that you may not violate God's law and sin. But if anyone should sin, we have one who will intercede for us with the Father – Jesus Christ the righteous (1 Jn.2:1).