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Why are We Here?

The Cure for the Terminal Condition of Sin

Recently, I was asked to speak at a global healthcare conference about the subject of *"Intentional Evangelism."* I gladly accepted the offer, but as I collected my thoughts on the subject, I began to realize that God has given all of us many different skills and abilities. Most of you reading this article have been given the ability to be a chiropractor. There are people every day that come into your office, but have you asked yourself why that specific person and why your office? Some may say that it is because of your marketing skill, some may say it is because of your reputation for great quality care, but we also have the tendency to forget that God is the one that has provided all these things for us.

You could not take your next breath if it was not part of God's plan for your life. The real question before us is "Why are we here?" What is our purpose for being? Does anyone feel qualified to answer that question? I know there was a time in my life where I didn't. This started me on a journey to search the Scriptures for the answer.

In Luke 19:10, Jesus states His purpose for being on this earth. Luke 19:10, *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."* This is a very powerful passage, and it leaves very little room for questions. As a Christian, I am thankful that Christ came for us, but this is not our mission because there is only one who can save. 1 Timothy 2:5, *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*

This is the reason that Christ came, but why are we here? Jesus tells us our purpose. Mark 16:15, *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature."* Now I know what some of you are thinking, *"I'm not a preacher!"* The passage doesn't say that you must be a *"preacher,"* it says that you should preach, or proclaim the Gospel. I can already feel the anxiety building!

I would like to share a scenario with you. Let's say that you have gotten the best education possible, and that you are on the leading edge of research and technology in the healthcare field. It has been said that you are the best doctor in the country, possibly even the world. You have been able to help countless patients to complete recovery when other healthcare professionals could not.

As I began to see my patients as precious, lost souls like Christ sees them, my heart began to change.

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Why Are We Here, continued,

You have a very busy and successful practice, and you enjoy going into work every day.

One day you find yourself walking into a room to give a Report of Findings to your patient, who happens to be a 26 year-old mother of 2, who is happily married to a young man serving in the military. As you enter the room, you see the father has come home, and he is with his wife and their two children; laughing, hugging one another, excited to just be together. And then you hear your patient, the young mother, tell her children *"Now children, please sit down and be quiet while the doctor is here, and when we are finished we will go out and celebrate that your daddy is home."* Then all eyes turn to you as you put the x-rays up in the view box. And then you notice something on the x-ray, a cotton ball-like mass in the lung field. Your heart drops, you look at the family, then back at the film. Thoughts start to race through your head as you look at the films. *"If I tell this patient what I see and what I think this means, that she has cancer, what is this going to do to this family? No more laughing, no more celebration that daddy is home, the news will be devastating!"* But, if you do not tell her, they will still have their joyous celebration, but the cancer will take her eventually.

The question I have for you is what kind of doctor would you be if you did not tell her? As a Christian we see people every day that have a terminal condition of their soul. We cannot heal them, but we know a Great Physician that we can refer them to, and He has never lost a single patient that has submitted to His treatment. He has a 100% success rate! What kind of Christian would you be if you did not tell someone of the cure for their terminal condition of the soul? This scenario is played out in our offices every day. The responsibilities of being a doctor have driven some to leave the profession. As a Christian, we cannot quit being a child of God. Why do we put ourselves under such pressure? Why would God ask us to do something like this? Then we read Romans 5:8, *"But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* John 3:16-17 *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."* Since God did all this for us, is there anything that He could ask of you that would be too much? The things that are important to Jesus should be important to us, and He is asking us to help Him get the good news of the Gospel out to the entire world; the cure for the terminal condition of sin.

As I mentioned earlier, God has given us all gifts. God has a purpose for making us who we are. We have patients who come in to our offices from all walks of life. As I began to see my patients as precious, lost souls like Christ sees them, my heart began to change. During this time God gave me a passage of scripture that resulted in my leaving my practice and surrendering to full-time ministry. The passage was 1 Peter 4:10-11, *"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister*

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Why Are We Here, concluded,

the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

I realized that "the gift" is the Gospel and that my God-given "ability" is to be a chiropractor. This ability is not just given to us to be a blessing to others: it is given to us for a purpose. Proverbs 18:16, "A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men." God has a plan for us, and He wants our abilities to give us an opportunity to do this one thing: share the Gospel. In 2 Timothy, God tells young Timothy, through Paul, what he is to do with the abilities and responsibilities he has been given. 2 Timothy 4:5, "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

These same instructions apply to us today! What is "the work of an evangelist"? An evangelist is to share the Gospel/The Good News. God gives us the how and why we share the Gospel in Rom 10:14-17, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?" as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." The last part of 2 Timothy 4:5 says to "make full proof of thy ministry." Ask yourself, are you using your God-given abilities making "full proof of thy ministry?"

Dr. Adam Reed is the president of Caring Partners International, which equips Bible-believing churches to meet the healthcare needs of the lost and dying around the world and share the message of salvation. He is a 1991 graduate of Life University and joined the CCA in 2010. He is a CCA-supported missionary.

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