

## "Living Life on Purpose"

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Exodus 20:22-23:19

December 4, 2016

"Then he took the **Book of the Covenant** and read it in the hearing of the people..."

Ex 24:7

**INTRO** ...Beyond the Famous 10 Commandments to the "Book of the Covenant"

### **What was this meeting about at Mt. Sinai? ...**

*"...these laws and the book of Exodus as a whole are meant to prepare Israel for entering the land and living there in accordance with God's purpose." Peter Enns, "Exodus", p. 442*

What has God Been Doing so far in Exodus?

*...So, now what?*

**Deut 10:12-11:1** ...Good summary passage of this moment of reminder about their purpose/mission.

- **God was equipping His people for His purpose!** ... Helpful to observe that to fulfill God's purpose for their lives ...they would need to be mindful of and intentional about 3 dimensions of their existence: Moral, Civil, and Ceremonial aspects of life!

*"The law of Moses had three grand divisions: the moral, the civil, and the ceremonial. The first is to be found in the Ten Commandments; the second (mainly) in Exodus 21-23; the third (principally) in the book of Leviticus. The first defined God's claims upon Israel as human creatures; the second was for the social regulation of the Hebrew commonwealth; the third respected Israel's religious life." A.W. Pink, "Gleanings in Exodus", Kindle loc 5550*

## **Intentionality in 3 Dimensions**

*To Live a Life That Fulfills God's Purpose calls for intentionality in 3 Dimensions:*

### **(1) INTENTIONAL MORALITY ...Boundaries & Responsibility for YOURSELF**

[Convictions that You Intend to Act Upon and Enforce!]

- **The "tone" of the 10 Commands** is pertaining to what you let yourself do or not do—

...No matter how "compelled" they were to do otherwise ...No matter what their reasons or excuses or impulses or appetites—DON'T!!!

- **A Critical Component to living a healthy human existence is "Self-management" ...taking responsibility for your own actions and attitudes**

**NOTE: Healthy Personal Responsibility & Boundaries has  
Profound Societal Impact!**

- **The N.T.** goes to great length to describe how we are to "put to death the deeds of the flesh" by the Spirit! ...We are still doing "self-management" in the N.T.

**Col 3:5-11** Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

***Be informed—Living On Purpose will require you to tell yourself NO!!***

(Titus 2:11-12)

**(2) INTENTIONAL CIVILITY ...Managing How We Relate to Others (Boundaries and Wisdom and Intentions)**

- **The O.T. general civil components** (Ex 21-23 and also Deut)
  - Ex 21:1-3 ...Intentional boundaries that care for slaves
  - Ex 21:16 ...Intentional prohibition against forcing slavery
  - Ex 21:18-19, 28-29 ...Intentional responsibility and restitution if our actions harm another
  - Ex 22:16-17 ...Intentional facing of consequences for how your immorality touches others
  - Ex 22:25-27 ...Responsibility to help the poor

- **The N.T. "one anothers"** ...addressing our intentionality with regards to our relationship with others

Rom 12:9-21

*Do I have "intentions" in these areas? ...Am I Living My Life Toward Others—ON PURPOSE??*

Eph 4:25-32

**(3) INTENTIONAL CEREMONIALLY ...Intentional Management of Relating to God**

- **The O.T. goes to great length to introduce us to "holiness"** ...the sense of "otherness" of God (His purity, His power, His righteousness, etc.) ...BE CAREFUL & BE MINDFUL of Who God is and What He is Like!!
- The N.T. goes to great length to inform us that God has NOT changed ...but our ability to approach Him has changed—DUE TO WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE!!

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Heb 12:18-24

**NOTE: This New Cov. Access by Grace STILL REQUIRES CEREMONY!!**

**Heb 4:16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Heb 10:19-22, 24-25** Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near ...24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- **The Intentionality of Remembering and Turning Our Attention**

- Weekly Sabbath practice ...Tithing upon 'increase' coming to their lives ...Annual Festivals (3 per year) ...7<sup>th</sup> Year Sabbath (Ex 22:29, 23:10, 14)
  - Each of these contain REGULARLY SCHEDULED Moments where they "Remember" or "Set their Minds" on something in particular

*"...it is at these agriculturally significant times that Israel is to be reminded that all these gifts come from God. Israel is truly to thank God for its 'daily bread'. Every element of life, whether social or agricultural, is to be lived out in God's presence. He is the source and the goal of everything they do." Peter Enns, "Exodus", p. 458*

- This is true in the N.T. as well: "Setting aside, as you prosper" (1Cor 16:2) ...Sabbath/Lord's Day practice ...Communion Meal of Remembrance ...Regular Gatherings

***How's My Intentionality Been This Year?...Am I Living my Life "ON PURPOSE"?***