

# MASTERPLAN TWO

## OUR PART IN GOD'S PURPOSES

What did we learn of God's purposes in the Earth from the first study?

God hasn't created us to get on with our lives, wrapped up in our own concerns and priorities. He's created us to share in his life, his purposes and his heart. He wants us to be involved in his great plan of blessing the nations by introducing people to Jesus and offering them his forgiveness and new life.

Forgiveness of sin and new life was made possible solely through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, we're called to be his ambassadors, demonstrating his loving rule and announcing his offer of forgiveness and new life to everyone everywhere. Understanding what God's responsible for and what he's called us to be keeps us from trying to play God or failing to be all that he's called us to be.

Read through the passages from Matthew 28 and 2 Corinthians 5. Then go through the verses one paragraph at a time answering the questions that go with each section.

MATTHEW 28v16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

2 CORINTHIANS 5v9 ... we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Matthew 28v16-20

Why does Matthew record the disciples worship, obedience and doubts in the same passage?

What is a disciple and what does it mean to make disciples?

What's the difference between 'teaching' and 'teaching to obey'?

What's the scope of Jesus instruction and what's God's promise?

Is this command for us today? Why?

2 Corinthians 5v9-10

What motivates Paul's life and ministry?

How do you relate to these motivations?

This is what it means to live with an eternal perspective.

11 Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you...

14 ...For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Verses 11-13

Why does Paul tell others? What does this mean?

Paul was coming under pressure and accusation from false teachers who were trying to undermine

and usurp him and exploit the Corinthians.

What do we learn about the manner of Paul's ministry to the Corinthians?

Verses 14-16

What does it mean to be compelled by Christ's love? Can you relate to this?

How is ministry related to the death and resurrection

of Jesus?

What does it mean to regard people from a worldly

point of view? How do we do this?

Verse 17

What does it mean to be a new creation in Christ?

Verses 18-20

What is "the ministry of reconciliation" and "message of reconciliation?"

What does it mean to be an ambassador?

What does it mean for Christ to make his appeal through us? How do you feel about this?

What privileges and responsibilities does this entail?

Verse 21

How would you put Paul's summary of the gospel in your own words?

What has stood out to you from this study?

What does the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) require of us?

How would you summarise our part in God's purposes?

In what ways does your life currently reflect God's desire for us to be involved in his purposes?

What practical responses can we make to what we've looked at in this study?

In this study we've looked at our part in God's purposes. However, the Bible does not leave us in the dark about how practically to obey God. In the next study we'll consider the strategy the Bible gives us to fulfil our part in God's purposes.