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Rose Hill Church  
10am Service Sermon  
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## **What in the World are we Here for?**

**You might say, “What is it all about anyway?”:**

### **Or; what is the meaning of life?**

Let’s look at what some have said life is all about:

- One group says The ultimate in spiritual development in any Spiritual path is merging with God. ‘Merging with God’ means experiencing God within us and all around us, in the leaves of the trees, the dirt and so on.
- Joseph John Campbell was an American professor of literature who worked in comparative mythology and comparative religion. His theory was that all stories about human meaning are myths and stem from one common core myth-in other words there is really no truth in the world or in who we are
- Another said the key is To be a good person or at least to feel good about yourself; that same person pointed out that even serial killers tend to ‘feel good’ about their work

- The meaning of life is to keep yourself occupied so you don't take your own life-Albert Camus
- “Life has to be given a meaning because of the obvious fact that it has no meaning.”  
  
— **Henry Miller**
- For Will Rogers, his idea of meaning included this thought; “If there are no dogs in Heaven, then I want to go where they do.”
- And finally, Edgar Allen Poe said, “The Best things in life make you sweaty”; we are left presuming that somehow the smell of sweat was intoxicating for Poe.

## **Comments:**

Before I get started with the message today, I want to ask the congregation to do some things for me; really for yourselves;

-to sit back

-close your eyes

-quiet yourself

-perhaps take some slow deep breaths

-and begin to focus on what the Lord Jesus Christ might have for you today, right here, in this place.

-Jesus has promised (Matthew 7:7); "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

What is it you are asking God for? What are you seeking today?

Okay, you may open your eyes if you wish, but please keep in mind what it is God is saying to you today through His Word, Worship and our time together.

**Let's read our Scripture verse again:**

**1 Peter 2:9 (New American Standard Bible)**

**<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**

This is a profound statement indeed! When we ask ourselves “What in the World are we here for?” This seems to be the answer. Fine’. Done. Enough. I can sit down, right? Why NOT? I have asked the question and 1 Peter 2:9 answers that question for us. Some of you may respond, “Good. Whew! We got a short-winded one in the pulpit today”.

Thank Goodness!

I know! Right!

But, wait a minute! “Not so fast!”

Let's back up:

**First off,** who is writing this letter or epistle anyway? Strong historical evidence, as well as most of the early church leaders attributed both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter to Peter the Apostle.

**Second;** who is this writer addressing? 1 Peter 1 says he is writing to the elect, those chosen by God, and calls these people “strangers in the world”. What is meant here is that these people he was writing to in Asia Minor were at once marginalized by the greater society, yet he calls them special! Keep this in mind...

**Third:** now let us look at the statements made in 1 Peter 2:9

**What is Peter talking about?**

For that we must travel back hundreds of years to the writing of the book of Exodus, Chapter 19: verses 1-6;

**At Mount Sinai Exodus 19:1-6**

**19 On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. <sup>2</sup> After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.**

**<sup>3</sup> Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the 1-descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the 2-people of Israel:<sup>4</sup> ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> you<sup>[a]</sup> will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to 3-speak to the Israelites.”**

This is so important, obviously, that the writer has the emphasis on Israelites and Children of Jacob three times

So, clearly the Apostle Peter, yes, that man who grew up a solid, Torah-believing faithful Jewish fisherman, that man who walked and lived with Jesus during His three years of ministry; that man who witnessed Jesus' arrest, abuse and torture, and fled from Him after denying Him three times, that man who Jesus called back into ministry to help birth and lead Jesus' Church; That Peter; **He is saying we are:** a chosen race, we are a royal priesthood, we are a holy nation; we are a people for God's own possession!

That is it! That is what we are here for!

Here is the thumbnail history for you:

In Genesis 1 and 2 we have the story of God's creation of the world and of humanity and animals and all the rest. Humans are walking with God, communing with God, safe, carefree, protected, and without anything to harm or even bother them! Think of it! Not even mosquitos to bite you!

These people are in paradise. A dream come true, right?

Later on in Genesis Chapter 3 we have the story of the fall; humanity is separated from relationship, deep intimate relationship, with the Triune God, because of rebellion and deep Sin. I believe that break in the relationship, that disobedience, is responsible for every single illness, death, disease, broken heart, you name it. Sin was and is so bad that it is way down deep in our DNA. And this made us a seemingly hopeless and helpless lot indeed!

The rest of the story, meaning the rest of Genesis all the way through the Hebrew Bible and our New Testament, with Jesus' Incarnation, His life, death and resurrection...all the way to the maps in the back. It is all about the restoration of humanity to God. Period. Everything that happens, every bit of history, everything in the entire universe, is leading to a single pinpoint in time. A point in time when Jesus Christ the Son of God will return to earth, and through God's plan right every wrong, wipe away every tear, heal every wound, and take all who have given themselves to God, they will be united with God to be...you guessed it;



THE PEOPLE OF GOD; A CHOSEN PEOPLE; A ROYAL  
PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION; A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN  
POSSESSION.

**And in so doing; I also believe that this God of ours has, is and will  
use every single experience, every tear we have shed, every  
heartache, every heartbreak, every ache and pain; and He is taking  
these seemingly shattered dreams of ours, the broken places of our  
lives, be it alcoholism, drug addiction, depression, loss, disease,  
PTSD, you name it; God will waste not one tear of ours! No, what  
He is doing is molding us and shaping us into the image of His son.**

That is the transformation, or as some call it, the sanctification of each  
person He has brought into His fold. That is why this life is so  
important.

Folks, this life is not a way station. Nor is it a place to sink deep roots  
and build many houses. No. This is a very temporary place we call  
home. But it is infinitely important that we be connected to the Triune  
God NOW. As long as we are here, we have work to do. It is to day by

day yield our hearts to Him. To allow Jesus to own every single thought in our heads, every part of us, body, mind, spirit emotions and will. We cannot change ourselves. But like the prodigal son who lost his way and then turned back toward home, we must constantly turn back toward home and God. The Israelite General Joshua said, “Choose this day whom you will follow”. This really only happens by His Grace, through His Holy Spirit, made possible by the shed blood of Jesus.

And folks, this is not easy. No, this life is tough. The Apostle Paul put it this way:

### **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

### **Okay, so let's review what we know:**

- Humanity started in “the Garden” in Eden
- Everything was as it was supposed to be with humans in close relationship with the Creator God
- Humans rebelled against God and lost relationship with Him
- All the problems in the world came into being not just affecting humans but also all of God's creation
- The Triune God has been working everything toward the end that He shall have “A people for His own possession” from the time of the fall of humanity to now!

### **And, from the final book of our Bible, come these words from the writer of Revelation:**

#### **Revelation 21:1-4**

**21** Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”<sup>[a]</sup> for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I

saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. **They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.**<sup>4</sup> ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’<sup>[b]</sup>or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” And that, my friends, is the story from A to Z.

**Our Assignment as part of the Body of Christ:**

- As we finish out 2019, it is essential that we move into 2020
- Look attentively forward to what this God Who is growing His People wants of us
- I would ask that each of you ponder and pray about what it is you are to be about, and more importantly, who you are to be in relationship with Jesus Christ, with others and with yourselves

- As things become clear, please let me know what you and God come up with; you can text, call, email, send a letter, meet me for coffee or arrange for me to come meet with you. I would love to hear what you and the Lord are cooking up, and of course to get to know each of you better!

Let's Pray...