

Writing Our Story—Part 3
Aircraft Carriers and Cruise Ships

What is our purpose as Christians?

Because we've misunderstood grace, we've misunderstood our purpose.

- We've thought our purpose was to work hard to earn our way into heaven.
- We're not working hard to get to heaven, we're working hard to advance the Kingdom.

Hebrews 12:1(NKJV)—Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **1.)** let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and **2.)** let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

- Getting in shape is not the goal of an athlete—winning a championship is.

To know our purpose, we must first know God's purpose.

John 3:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Luke 19:10 (NKJV)—I came to seek and save that which was lost.

What did Jesus say to His disciples before He left?

- *Feed the hungry, help the poor, fight for social justice, racial reconciliation, urban revitalization, community development, leadership development, multiethnic churches, refugees, immigration, sex trafficking, the environment, gender equality, political parties and ideology?*

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)—Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Acts 4:12 (NIV)

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Good without God is not good enough...it doesn't fix the underlying problem

- Unless people meet Jesus, there ain't no good that's good enough.

God's goal is that everyone has a chance to meet Jesus

Matthew 24:14 (NKJV) And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Acts 1:8 (NIV)—But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the ends of the earth.**”

Jesus had to create a **delivery system** to get the product into as many hands as possible.

- He needed carriers (disciples) that would deliver the product (His message).

Your life purpose is: deliver the love of God to someone else.

- How God uses it in their life is up to Him—you're just the messenger.

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2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NIV)—*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...and he has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation.* ²⁰ **We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.**

Jesus' purpose was and is to make disciples—men and women to deliver the love of God to others.

- **A message can be sent without saying a word.**

Matthew 5:14-16—*"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.* ¹⁶ **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

- **The delivery method is custom made for those it comes in contact with.**
 - "Witnessing" is not a one size fits all process; it's a custom fit to how God created you.
 - **You are God's delivery system...You carry the product within you.**