

WEEK TWENTY-NINE: “Accepting Your Assignment”
DAY ONE: “You Were Created to Serve God”

Read: Ephesians 2:8-10 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1357)

Read: *Purpose -Driven Life*, pp. 227 to middle of 229

Reflect: How important are good works to God? Can you back up your answer with reasons?

Dig: The connecting word “For” in the beginning of verse 10 of this text connects it with the previous thought. What is that previous thought?

What were we created for? See verse 10.

Who prepared these good works?

When were these good works prepared for us?

What is one of the great signs that we are saved and doing good works, according to the thoughts that follow this text? See verses 14-18 for your answer.

How does Ephesians 4:1 add another layer of meaning to this call to good works?

Apply: What “good works” do you expect that God has already prepared for you to do today? See if you can predict how God is going to use you. Then close with a prayer (consider writing the prayer) to seek God’s power to do what you know God is calling you to do.

WEEK TWENTY-NINE: “Accepting Your Assignment”
DAY TWO: “You Are Called to Serve God”

Read: Ephesians 4:4-14 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1359)

Read: *Purpose- Driven Life*, pp. 229 to middle of 230

Reflect: Before you read this chapter, who would you say is called to full-time Christian ministry?

Where did you get that idea?

Is it biblical?

Dig: According to this passage, who is called? See verse 4.

According to verse 11, what are pastors, evangelists, apostles and teachers supposed to do?

According to verse 12, what are the people supposed to do?

And according to verse 13, what will the effects be if the pastors are doing their job and the people are all doing their job?

Apply: This text calls us to not sit on the sidelines but to do ministry. What is it that you could be doing to help make the body of Christ healthy and strong by giving of your service? Ask God for the strength to do it.

WEEK TWENTY-NINE: “Accepting Your Assignment”
DAY THREE: “You Are Commanded to Serve God”

Read: Matthew 20:20-28 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1106)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, bottom of p. 230 to bottom of p. 231

Reflect: Do you have dreams of becoming great, that is, to make a huge difference in this life? What are those dreams?

Dig: Does Jesus think that wanting to be great is a bad thing?

How does Jesus suggest that we become great? See verses 26-27.

What does verse 22 tell you about the cost of becoming great in God’s kingdom?

How does Jesus give of himself in the next story? See verses 29-34.

How do servants of God treat others? See verse 34.

Apply: The author of *Purpose-Driven Life* writes “The last thing that many believers need today is to go to another Bible study. They already know far more than they are putting into practice. What they need are serving experiences in which they can exercise their spiritual muscles.” If that is true for you, what can you do to exercise your spiritual muscles?

WEEK TWENTY-NINE: “Accepting Your Assignment”
DAY FOUR: “Preparing For Eternity”

Read: Romans 14:9-13 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1298)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, bottom of p. 231 to end of chapter

Reflect: How often do you think about the fact that you will give an account of your life before God? Why or why not?

Dig: What is the reason given that we should not judge others? See verse 10.

What does verse 12 clearly teach about what will happen to each of us at the judgment?

What does the passage from Matthew 12:33-37 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1092) add to your understanding of this text?

How does James 2:14-19 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1443) help you understand the relationship between faith and deeds (or works)?

Apply: Since “you are going to give your life for something. What will it be---a career, a sport, a hobby, fame, wealth? None of these will have lasting significance. Service is the pathway to real significance.” (*Purpose-Driven Life*, p. 232) Since this is clearly a biblical truth, what “something” are you tempted to give your life to which is only temporary and selfish? Ask God to help you give up this temporary thing for his offer of lasting significance.

WEEK TWENTY-NINE: **“Accepting Your Assignment”**

DAY FIVE: **“Service Is Not Optional”**

Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study (see page 3 of this booklet), meditate on this scripture:

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- ♦ *reading*: you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- ♦ *meditation*: you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.
- ♦ *prayer*: you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer-- thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.