

Intentional By Design

Series: Following Jesus: Valuing Relationships

Ephesians 1:4-10 NLT (0924)

Steve Wood

Congregational Meeting, July 19, 2009

Ephesians 1:4-5, 9-10 NLT ⁴Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure. ... ⁹God's secret plan has now been revealed to us; it is a plan centered on Christ, designed long ago according to his good pleasure. ¹⁰And this is his plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.

I. Focused first on the kingdom of God

a. Keeping things as clear and simple as possible

Matthew 6:33 NIV *Seek first [God's] kingdom...*

NLT *...make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.*

Luke 4:43 NLT ⁴³But he replied, "I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other places, too, because that is why I was sent."

b. If we are truly seeking the kingdom first, it changes everything

Matthew 5:48 NIV ⁴⁸*Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Matthew 5:48 TM *"In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You are kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.*

II. Pursuing the specific assignment given to us by God

Romans 4:17 NLT—*the God who ...brings into existence what didn't exist before.*

a. Walking out our assignment within the context of who we are

b. Focus for this past year

c. Focus for the coming year