

THE ETERNAL PURPOSE (Preface)

Simply put, the Bible indicates the Creator God had rebellion, then open war, in heaven by many of the angels against Himself. Rather than abruptly destroy the rebellious angels, God in His wisdom conceived of a plan. God created the entire physical universe, and especially planet earth, as a stage. Mankind He created in His image as the free-will players.

Then God gave His chief angelic adversary temporary authority as “*god of this world*” (II Corinthians 4:4). As such, Satan is now free to demonstrate what it would be like if he were in fact God. In the Montana west one would say God has given Satan “just enough rope to hang himself!” And so God vindicates Himself to all watching as being the only One truly worthy of ultimate authority and worship; not only because of His superior power, but more importantly for His character of love and wisdom.

Romans 8:28 states: “*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*” The next verse states God’s purpose in reference to mankind on earth: “*to become conformed to the image of His Son*” (Romans 8:29). In being conformed to the image of Jesus means a person can take on the very character of Christ. The apostle Peter uses the phrase “*partakers of the divine nature*” to describe this (II Peter 1:4).

But only one passage in the entire Bible specifically speaks of God’s eternal, all-encompassing purpose. Ephesians 3:10-11 states: “*...in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus...*” The church here refers to the people conforming to Christ and His divine nature. The rulers and authorities in the heavenly places are angels. Therefore, God’s eternal purpose consists of using the church to reveal His wisdom to the angels. This is **the** reason. It’s astounding, but true.

The eternal purpose explains so much! Only in knowing God’s purpose, can one even begin to accurately understand and rationally answer the most vital questions of life and its meaning. The insight afforded should also help in overcoming the schemes of the devil. But most of all, knowing what’s really going on, and why, enables a person to serve and love our Creator in the most meaningful, proper way; meeting His expectation, need, and desire for us.

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Note: This preface submitted as an essay to encapsulate the findings and importance of The Eternal Purpose paper. We refer to it as “The Reader’s Digest Version” of the Eternal Purpose. Lord willing, later this year or in early 2013 the unabridged version of The Eternal Purpose, with a complete “Applications” section, will be available on the Hischurch.org website.