



CGOM

Churches Of God Outreach Ministries
People working together to proclaim the Gospel

"The Churches of God Outreach Ministries provides leadership, information, and biblical teaching in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20"

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Mini Study

WHY WERE YOU BORN?

"God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"
(John 3:16)

When they at all give it a thought, most folk wonder why on earth we are here, why we were born. Surely there must be some purpose to our 'three score years and ten' - beyond survival, enjoyment, reproduction, perhaps leaving things better than when we arrived. If you have discarded the idea of a living God then that's life. But for the believer, God has better plans.

- the divine plan for mankind was conceived in eternity, before the creation of the physical universe. Indeed the universe is the stage on which God is enacting His purpose for mankind, His unique creation
- God created the human race on Planet Earth . We are made *'in his image, after his likeness'* - we bear His outward form - and also have the germ of His intellectual and emotional powers. God commissioned us to use these powers to maintain the physical creation (Genesis 1:26-27)
- but right now we are merely the 'clay model' (we are *'of the earth'*: Genesis 3:19). Our potential, however, is to be *'partakers of the divine nature'* (II Peter 1:4), to become a part of the Kingdom of God
- God is implementing His plan in stages. At this time - Stage 2 - He is selecting and training the personnel for the next stage. Addressing the apostles, for example, Jesus said *'...in the new age, when the Son of Man shall sit on the throne of his glory, you too shall sit on twelve thrones passing judgment on the twelve tribes of Israel'* (Matthew 19:28)
- and not just Israel but all mankind - and angelic beings - will come under the benign rule of the King of kings - assisted by the saints (Revelation 5:10)
- this process requires human response to the Father's invitation (John 6:44). Those who commit to Him receive the gift of the holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Although we are still 'in the flesh' the Spirit in us - with our co-operation - shapes us over time into the divine character. Wrote Paul: *"He has chosen us in him before the world was founded to be holy and blameless in his presence"* (Ephesians 1:4)
- through a period of experience this clay model is transformed: *'...but we all are changed into [Christ's] likeness from one degree of glory to another, derived as it is from the Lord's Spirit'* (II Corinthians 3:18). Our active and willing submission to the promptings of the Spirit prepares us to serve as 'a kingdom of priests' in God's Kingdom
- in a very real sense we will be 'sons of God'; 'Because those whom He knew beforehand, those He appointed beforehand to share the likeness of His Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers' (Romans 8:29)
- we are born, in other words, to become a part of the divine Family, with the divine nature. We have but a glimpse, now, of what God has in store for those who fully commit to Him: *'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, neither has it come up in the human heart, that has God made ready for those who love him. Through the Spirit, however, God has revealed it to us'* (I Corinthians 2:9,10)

*Request the free articles:
After the Resurrection and Why Were You Born? (Booklet)*

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