

Evil - John 1:9-13
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

In the years after World War II, Rein Narma emigrated from Estonia to the United States, where he began to work as an audio engineer. He soon became underwhelmed and frustrated with the audio equipment available, and decided to launch his own company to design and build recording equipment. After being commissioned by Les Paul (yes, THAT Les Paul, who designed the iconic Gibson Les Paul guitar) to build a new limiter, the design was picked up by Sherman Fairchild and they released the Fairchild 660 / 670 Compressor / Limiter. This beast weighs 65 pounds, has 11 transformers, 20 vacuum tubes, and (to me) countless other components. It has become one of the most legendary pieces of recording gear after being used on countless Motown records, every Beatles record from Revolver forward, Pink Floyd, The Beach Boys, and up to modern day musicians like Adele and Kendrick Lamar. It has spawned many reproductions and modeled plugins for modern-day digital audio workstation use.

But to get down to the real purpose of the unit and why it was created the way it was, I believe you'd have to go to Rein Narma. It was Mr. Narma who decided exactly which kinds of tubes had the right values and tonal qualities he wanted, why each capacitor, resistor & other component is used where it is. This man intelligently designed this amazing piece of audio equipment, and he is the one person singularly most qualified to tell you what its purpose is and what it is meant to do.

This same mindset comes into play with our purpose. In the prologue of The Gospel of John, we see the Word, or the Logos, as the agent of creation involved from the beginning (and before, actually). The Logos would have been known to both Jew and Greek gentile, from either the Old Testament language (Ps 33:6) or from Greek philosophy, which held the concept of the Logos being the impersonal, all-pervading principle of reason that gave order to the universe. So John's audience would have had some sort of background for what the Logos meant, but from there he blew their notion of Logos out of the water by explaining that the Logos was Jesus: a person who lived, breathed and walked the earth, serving as the physical, personification of God's revelation of salvation to all (Jew and gentile alike). Through John's text, we see the Logos serving as the light and hope that we who walk in darkness need to save us from our sin and restore our broken relationship with our creator.

From Greek philosophy, we also see the concept of Telos, or ultimate goal / purpose. Aristotle believed that the Telos of human beings was happiness or fulfillment - specifically, fulfillment of our potential for excellence. Eventually, the Existentialist philosophy introduced the belief that "existence precedes essence". Basically that just means that as humans, we exist first; and from there, each individual spends the rest of his/her life finding their essence or purpose based on free will or personal choice, without the necessity of an objective, outside form of truth. Philosophies like this have heavily influenced our culture today, and when we begin to consider what our purpose is without allowing God the creator to speak into that search, we place ourselves in a vacuum of darkness with no outside objective truth or light. Remember, from our recent sermon on the question of evil, darkness is the absence of light, death is the absence of life, and evil isn't a thing- it's the absence of God. And if I seek to answer the question of what my purpose is without focusing on how the light and life of God my creator speaks into that, I will only fill the space for that answer with my own version of darkness and evil.

John points out that God created all things (including you and me) through the Logos, who came filled with grace and truth, and he notes that each of us are given the chance to receive him. But only those who receive Him are created with the right to become children of God. And yet, that is a work of God and not man. We know from scripture that this is God's hope for humanity (2 Peter 3:9), and in His love (John 3:16), He has provided a way to be reconciled (Col 1:21-23) in spite of our tendency to choose our own purpose over the one He has given us.

So, then, what is the purpose God has given us? To reflect the light of the glory of God we see in the Son in v14, which is the same glory and goodness revealed to Moses in Exodus 33. Our purpose is to glorify God in whatever we do (1 Cor 10:31), and to find our ultimate joy in Him. And we do that best when we receive the best Christmas gift ever: the Word. When we believe in His Son Jesus Christ and reflect His glory, we are indeed glorifying Him and we are able to enjoy Him forever.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Isaiah 25	Isaiah 26	Isaiah 27	Isaiah 28	Isaiah 29	Isaiah 30	Isaiah 31

Reading from this past week: John 1:1-14

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: John 1:14-18

Family Worship

Song - *Angels We have Heard on High*

<https://youtu.be/8V7sLV2uqls>

Gospel Project

Unit: Out of Egypt

Story: God parted the Red Sea

Big Picture Question: Does God keep His promises?

Answer: Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

Scripture: Exodus 13-15

New City Catechism

Question #51: Of what advantage to us is Christ's ascension?

Answer: Christ is now advocating for us in the presence of his Father and also sends us his Spirit.

Verse: Romans 8:34

Scripture

John 1:1-14

- Why do we want to find our purpose and destiny in life? Why do so many people search for this without finding anything that really gives them ultimate purpose?
- If God exists, why is it impossible to live our purpose without finding it in Him?
- How does Jesus point us toward our ultimate value and purpose in life?

Prayer

*Pray for our Christmas Eve service and that we would truly worship Jesus as we celebrate the holiday.

*During this week of Advent, pray that Christ would truly reign in our hearts and bring the peace that only the Prince of Peace can offer.