

Bay City Wesleyan Church  
August 20, 2017

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Sunday Morning 08-20-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"  
When was the last time you asked?

<http://bible.com/events/266525>

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[Image]

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This is the fifth part of our summer series: FAQ - Real Answers to Real Questions from Real People like you.

FAQ #5:

"How can I discover God's plan for me at this stage of my life?"

Philippians 1:12-20 NIV

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.  
<http://bible.com/111/php.1.12-20.NIV>

There's a universal duty for all Jesus-followers - to exalt King Jesus by spreading his message.

Philippians 1:21-26 NIV

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.  
<http://bible.com/111/php.1.21-26.NIV>

There's an individual design for each Jesus-follower - each one designed by the Holy Spirit for the most fruitful labor possible.

Philippians 1:27-30 NIV

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

<http://bible.com/111/php.1.27-30.NIV>

There's a shared devotion for all Jesus-followers - active love for King Jesus and the people he seeks to save.

Sermon in a Sentence:

Jesus' love restored and transformed us so we want everyone to experience it for themselves.

"How can I discover God's plan for me at this stage of my life?"

Are you expecting God to show you a detailed list of what he wants you to do for the rest of your life? You will be disappointed. Jesus doesn't lead his followers that way. Nevertheless, no matter what your stage or station in life, you have a part to play in God's work of restoration and transformation. He will reveal your individual design as you participate in the Church's universal duty with our shared devotion to Jesus and the people he seeks to save.

You are a Jesus-follower. You do not look at others in the church family as your religious service providers.

As a follower of Jesus, you are not a religious consumer using the church primarily to meet your needs. You don't expect your pastor and others in the church family to give you perks, privileges, and preferences.

Jesus' love restored and transformed you when you welcomed him as King of your life. You want everyone to experience the same grace for themselves. No matter what your stage or station in life, you have a part to play in God's work of restoration and transformation. You and I are the point of the spear bringing God's kingdom of love and transformation to Bay County. Jesus will reveal your individual design as you participate in the Church's universal duty with our shared devotion to Jesus and the people he seeks to save.

In response to today's message, I will...

Change my mind set by memorizing Philippians 1:21

Pray each day for the Holy Spirit to show me how to help others know him

Participate in God's work of restoration and transformation

A prayerful meditation:

Jesus, we belong to you. How can I help them know you?