

We love the idea of plans and purposes, but we struggle with the **process**.

### **1 Corinthians 3:1-2**

For my part, brothers and sisters, I was not able to speak to you as **spiritual** people but as people of the **flesh**, as babies in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, since you were **not yet** ready for it. In fact, you are **still not ready** ...

Paul to Corinth:      You are a work in progress, but you are not trusting the process.

Neglecting the **process** is the enemy of **purpose**.

### **1 Corinthians 3:2-3**

In fact, you are still not ready, because you are still **worldly**. For since there is envy and strife among you, are you not worldly and behaving like **mere humans**?

### **Romans 8:29 (NLT)**

For God knew his people in advance, and He chose them to **become like his Son**

### **Ephesians 4:13-14**

... until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature **measured by Christ's fullness**. Then we will no longer be little children

### **3 Enemies of the Process:**

- 1) Our **flesh** (the part of us Jesus died for and we must die TO ... often daily)
- 2) The **world** (opposed to God's wisdom as displayed on the Cross)

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- 1) Our **flesh** (the part of us Jesus died for and we must die TO ... often daily)
- 2) The **world** (opposed to God's wisdom as displayed on the Cross)
- 3) **Ignorance and/or resistance** to God's process

### **1 Corinthians 3:4-7**

For whenever someone says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not acting like **mere humans**? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? They are **servants** through whom you believed, and each has **the role** the Lord has given. I planted, Apollos watered, **but God** gave the growth. So, then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, **but only God** Who gives the **growth**.

God gives the “growth” → God guarantees the process.

### 1 Corinthians 1:30

It is from him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom from God for us—our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption—

In Christ, God has already accomplished for us what the process is working in us!

→ **Know the Person** of God as revealed in Christ.

Image of Christ crucified from the Passion

→ Accept the **purpose**.

→ Embrace the **process**.

Eyasu skiing pictures: #1: Child; #2: teenager

We pursue purpose by honoring/embracing the process ...

*{come up one at a time}*

### 2 Components of the Process:

1. The providence of God
2. God's positioning of us
  - In Christ
  - With the Holy Spirit
  - In the church

The **local church** is a critical part of God's purpose AND process.

Neglecting the process is the enemy of purpose.

### 1 Corinthians 4:8-11

Now he who plants and he who waters are one {in purpose}, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are **God's coworkers**. You are God's **field**, God's **building**. According to God's grace that was given to me, I have laid a foundation as a skilled master builder, and another builds on it. But each one is to **be careful** how he builds on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than what has been laid down. That foundation is **Jesus Christ**.

The role of Christ-centered teaching in the church is foundational to the process.

### **1 Corinthians 3:12-15**

If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, each one's work will become obvious. For the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work. If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will experience loss, but he himself will be saved—but only as through fire.

### **1 Corinthians 3:16-17**

Don't you yourselves know that you are **God's temple** and that the Spirit of God lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is holy, and **that is what you are.**

**When you think of you ... are you seeing yourself as part of **God's temple**?**

### **Ephesians 4:11-12**

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to **equip the saints** for the work of ministry, to **build up** the body of Christ

**When you think of you ... have you embraced the process to be built up by and to build up the body of Christ?**

- **Christ-like character & conduct**
- **Church-edifying, Kingdom-advancing ministry**
- **Christ-exalting encouragement, love and correction**

ALL IN graphic

Serve the City graphic

20 year anniversary/Invites: Sept. 8/11 graphic

### **1 Corinthians 3:18-23**

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks he is wise in this age, let him **become a fool** so that he can become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, since it is written, *He catches the wise in their craftiness*; and again, *The Lord knows that the reasonings of the wise are futile*. So let no one boast in human leaders, for everything is yours—whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come—everything is yours, and **you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God**.

**Am I ... Are we a fool for Christ because we have accepted our purpose and embraced His process?**

→ **RESPONSIVE READING ... in a separate attachment**