

The Church – Part 17 **Purpose Driven or Purposely Deceived** **The Book of Acts**

I've entitled the lessons that we're going through right now the Purpose Driven or Purposely Deceived Church, and if you were with me last time, you heard me speaking about someone who is very popular in church circles today and that is Dr. Rick Warren. He said this, "The word 'fundamentalist' actually comes from a document in the 1920s called 'The Five Fundamentals of the Faith,' and it is a very legalistic narrow view of Christianity."

The last time we were together, I talked about what were the fundamentals he was referring to. The first fundamental that he was referred to is the Bible. The Bible is inerrant. It has full authority. It says in Romans 10:11: *For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.* II Peter 1:21 says: *For the prophecy... that's Scripture... came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.* If the Bible is not important, why did the Scripture say that it's by the foolishness of preaching... by the foolishness... in other words, of the Word of God. Now, God is not calling His Word foolish. He's saying that man will view it as foolish. Evidently, Rick Warren is saying that the Bible is unimportant, that there is no need of it anymore; it's legalistic.

And then he's also said that the five fundamentals... and he talks about that... and the second fundamental, of course, is Jesus Christ. We know that Jesus was virgin-born. He had no earthly father. He was adopted by Joseph, we know that, but the Holy Spirit, the Bible says, overshadowed Mary and came upon her, according to Luke 1:35. It says, *The Holy*

Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. I believe that's important.

And then we see that there are divine names involved in the name of Jesus, names that can only be given to God.

Isaiah 9:6 says: *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 7:14 says: *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

So, a virgin would give birth to our Savior, Jesus Christ. He is divine. He is God according to the second fundamental that I've listed here, Jesus Christ, who evidently Rick Warren says is unimportant.

Now, the third fundamental is the Resurrection. Jesus was resurrected according to the Word of God. Romans 4:25 says: *Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*

I Peter 1:21 says: *Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.*

II Corinthians 4:14: *Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.*

I Corinthians 15:14-15 says, ¹⁴*And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.* ¹⁵*Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.* And verse 17 says, *And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.* Verse 20 says: *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*

I don't know about you, but I believe the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is very important. It's a very important fundamental for fundamental Christians who believe the Bible, who believe in Jesus Christ, who believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, to believe in the bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In Luke 24:36-43 it talks about that and in I Corinthians 15:4-6 it says, ⁴*And that He was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:* ⁵*And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:* ⁶*After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.*

In Psalm 16:10, the Bible says, *For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell...* This is Jesus now. Remember Jesus is everlasting. He's God. And this is a description or, we'll say, a prophecy of what would take place in Jesus' life and His death. It says, *For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.* This is speaking of Jesus Christ... about Jesus. And we see that the third fundamental that Rick Warren says is not important is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

That's one of the five fundamentals that he says is legalistic and unimportant.

Then we see the fourth fundamental that, according to Rick Warren, is unimportant and that is the payment for sin. Christ's atonement, that's payment.

I John 2:2 says, *And he is the propitiation...* that means the satisfaction... *he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

I John 4:10 says, *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* That's payment, once again, for our sins.

John 3:16: *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Isaiah 53: ⁴*Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.* ⁵*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed...* That's healed from sin... ⁶*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him...* that's Jesus... *the iniquity... the sin... of us all.*

Well, Rick Warren says that's not important, evidently. He says that that's legalistic. And we see also that Christ's vicarious... that means for somebody else... He had a death. He died. Christ's vicarious death, according to Rick Warren evidently, is not important.

Galatians 1:4 says, *Who gave himself for our sins...* that's Jesus... *that he might deliver us*

from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.

Colossians 1:14: *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.*

I Peter 1:18-19: *¹⁸Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*

Unimportant? I think not. People need to be saved. They need to know that Jesus came into this world to live and die and resurrect from the dead for every person in this world who would call upon Him and ask Him to save them. It's a free gift, eternal life.

Fundamental number five that evidently Rick Warren sees as unimportant is the Second Coming of Jesus, and it's going to be literal. In Acts 1:11, it says, *Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

And we read in the Old Testament in Zechariah 14:4: *And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives... that's Jesus... which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*

Guess what? The Mount of Olives is where Christ ascended back to Heaven, Acts 1:11. He will stand again on the Mount of Olives when He comes again, literally, according to the

Word of God. Revelation 19:11 says, *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

And not only is Christ coming back the second time, we're coming back with Him, according to Revelation 19:14. It says there, *And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.*

Are we to believe that Christians who hold to these basic fundamental foundational doctrines of the Christian faith are narrow and legalistic? On the contrary. The Bible teaches that we are to stand up and proclaim the five foundational doctrines that I've just mentioned and that we've gone over. Those five foundational doctrines of the Word of God, first of all, is the Bible; secondly, the virgin birth of Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ Himself; and third, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Fourth, we look at this and we see the payment for sin, and fifth, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, literally.

Dr. Warren, author of *The Purpose Driven Church* and *The Purpose Driven Life*, has stated this: "When you reveal the vision of the Purpose Driven Church to a church, the old pillars are going to leave, but let them leave. They only hold things up." This is Dr. Warren who said that. Well, he's right. The old pillars hold the local church up. These are the members who stand on the Word of God. Those people who have been in the local church for years stood for God.

Do you know Him today as your Savior? If not, you need to trust Him. You need to ask Him to come into your heart today.

“Lord Jesus, I know I’m a sinner. I know I can’t save myself. Lord, I’m asking You today to give me eternal life. I believe Your Word where it says for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. I want to ask You right now, Lord, to come into my heart and save me. I’m sorry for my sin. Please save me so I can be with You one day in Heaven.”

If you’ll pray a prayer like that, God will save you. Mean it in your heart and God will save you.

Let me pray now. Father, thank you for this time together. May You lead, guide, and direct. Save that soul, Lord, who needs saving today and help Christians to stand upon the Word of God. For Christ’s sake, Amen.

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Until next time, this is Doug Anderson reminding you it’s a good life living for the Lord. May the Lord bless you richly is our prayer.