

NEWS AND VIEWS
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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Once upon a time I watched a little boy scribbling frantically on a piece of paper. Intrigued by his intensity I asked what he was doing. He replied, *I'm making a plan*. My next question was a little more specific. *Well, why do you think you need a plan?* With no small amount of frustration over my obvious lack of understanding, his response was a little louder. *So I'll know what I'm s'posed to do!!!* It amused me to see his passion about planning for his play time. Then I realized that for a lot of children, when we see them at play, they are really working at it. Their play is their work. It's what they live to do. Now think a moment with me about how so many grown folk could learn a valuable lesson. Some children are serious about working at their play. And some of us live to play at our work.

A construction company I'm familiar with displays, "*established 1988*" in some of their contract documents and pertinent correspondence. For the founders of the company, the year they were established was the year of their beginning. For the workers that work there, and the entities they serve, they are reminded of that reality. The owners of the company believe it exists to achieve a specific purpose. Sadly, some companies begin their organization with a grand business plan and unrealistic dreams and never become established. They just exist. Our lives can be lived in much the same way. Birthdays are acknowledged year after year but often only signify existence, not establishment. We never live with a purpose or understand that we are designed to be established. To be built with a plan and purpose in mind. Consider the following:

Commit your works to the LORD, and your plans will be established. (Proverbs 16:3)

A common interpretation of this profound piece of wisdom may go something like this: We make our best plan about what we want to do, pray about it, and God will bless our plans. But it seems a little deeper than that. To discover more of what the Lord thinks perhaps our plans need be more God-focused and less man-centered. Sadly I continue to see people dying without knowing why they're living. Despair hangs heavy around people who don't know the reason they were formed. Living life without living on purpose is merely marking time. It is painful to endure the trials of aging and face the reality that our years of life have been squandered.

When we offer our lives to God, He never wastes that gift. He gives us life to give back to Him so we can know He has a purpose for us to be established. That purpose extends well beyond our generation. The King is building His Kingdom. And workers in the Kingdom must surrender their plans. It's not our kingdom that we're building. His Kingdom is built to last.

I. OUR WORK MUST FOLLOW AN ESTABLISHED PLAN. Planning your work and working your plan is a man's method of working. If God is working, then He is following *His* plan, not ours. Are you intentional in discovering God's plan and working with Him? Do you know where to look to see His plan unfold and revealed? His Word is full of His plan.

II. WHEN I COMMIT MY WORK TO THE LORD, HE ESTABLISHES MY PLAN. Once I know God's plan, I can join in His work. This is the only way my work ever has eternal value. God establishes His plan and puts His desire into my heart. Then He extends an invitation. When God's plan becomes my plan, it is established.

III. GOD ESTABLISHES MY PLAN AFTER HE EXAMINES MY MOTIVES. God is not interested in establishing my plans for building my kingdom. He is interested in building His kingdom in accordance with His plans and His purposes. God knows the reason we work for Him. Is it a labor of love? Do we love the recognition of being a kingdom builder? Do we truly love God and desire what is in His heart?

Why we work for God is more important than *What* we do for Him. Know *Who* you work for...

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam