

God's Message for Today's Church

(Gympie Baptist - Sunday August 30th – Pastor Ben C)

About two months ago, we asked you the congregation to send in questions and concerns that you had around all that was happening as a result of the Covid pandemic. Out of those responses, we have put together four questions that we believe summarise and capture the essence of your responses. This morning Pastor Ben will address question 3, in this four part series mainly from Jesus' words to his disciples in John 15:1-8.

Question 3. What is God's plan for humanity?

A quick answer: _____

What is God's plan? – the ultimate plan

R _____

See also Gen 1-2, 12:1-3; Rev 21-22, Deu 12:8-14, Jos 1:13, Mat 11:28-30

What is God's plan? – the personal plan

R _____

See also Gen 3, Lev 18:24-30, 2 Kings 17:7-20, Ps 80:7-8, 14-17

Luke 13:1-4, 21:28, Rev 9:20-21, 16:9-11

Heb 12:7-11, 1 Thess 4:3a, John 15:2, Titus 2:11-13, Jam 1:2-4, 1 Pet 1:3-8

How do I respond to God's plan?

1. _____ See John 15:4-5

2. _____ See John 15:7 & 1 Thes 5:16-18

Some Immediate Application: Praying Some of Paul's (slightly adapted)
Prayers Together For Gympie Baptist.

²Thes 1:11 We pray that our God will make us worthy of his calling, and by his power fulfill our every desire to do good and our work produced by faith, ¹²so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified by us, and us by him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Thess 3:12 May the Lord cause us to increase and overflow with love for one another and for everyone... ¹³May he make our hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Amen

Col 1:9 We ask that we may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, ¹⁰so that we may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that we may have great endurance and patience, joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father

Phil 1:9 May our love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, ¹⁰so that we may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

Eph 1:15 We thank you Lord for the faith in the Lord Jesus and the love for all the saints you have given us ¹⁷We pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. ¹⁸We pray that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened so that we may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.

Eph 3:16 We pray – God may you grant us, according to the riches of your glory, to be strengthened with power in our inner being through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith. We pray that, being rooted and firmly established in love, ¹⁸we may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, ¹⁹and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Keeping it Real by Going Deeper!

The Passage & The Message: John 15:1-8 – What is God's Plan for humanity?

Getting Started:

Have you had to change any of your plans this year? E.g. plans for celebrations, travel etc.

Open in Prayer:

Going Deeper:

Sunday's message discussed God's plan at 2 levels, the ultimate plan and the personal plan, and the message focussed on how they come up in John 15:1-8.

Firstly – Rest – God's ultimate plan is that he would be glorified by bringing his people to live in his very presence – and all the blessing that means. In John 15, this comes up when Jesus says, 'remain in me'.

Q 1. What **Stood** out to you most from this first point and is this helpful?

Q 2. What **Puzzled** you or troubled you or caused you to ask questions about anything that you hadn't necessarily thought about much before, due to this first point?

Q 3. What did you **Learn** about God and His people, from this first point?

Secondly – Redemption – God's personal plan for each person is that the Spirit lives in us saving/redeeming us from the sin that remains within and preparing us to enter God's rest. In John 15, this idea comes up when Jesus says that the Father is the gardener who prunes the unfruitful parts of the vine.

Q 1. What **Stood** out to you most from this first point and is this helpful?

Q 2. What **Puzzled** you or troubled you or caused you to ask questions about anything that you hadn't necessarily thought about much before, due to this first point?

Q 3. What did you **Learn** about God and His people, from this first point?

Q 4. What is the 'fruit' that God is working in his people to produce?

See also Matt 3:8-10, 7:15-23, 13:3-8, Rom 7:4-6, Gal 5:22-23, Eph 5:8-21, Phil 1:9-11, Col 1:9-14, Heb 12:11, 13:15, Jam 3:13-18, 2 Pet 1:3-11

Lastly – We can respond to God’s plan in the following ways

- Remain in Christ – John 15:4

- Pray and ask the Father according to his word – John 15:7

Q 1. Jesus compares the relationship we are to have with him like the relationship between a vine and a branch connected to the vine. What do we learn about how we should relate to Jesus through this metaphor? What will it look like in our lives if we are connected to Jesus in this way?

Q 2. What is the kind of prayer that God promises to ‘do for you’? How is this an encouragement to pray? How should this affect our prayer lives?

Lastly Ask Yourself:

What will you **Talk** to God or others about?

a. So what things are we taught about God within these verses ***that we can tell others*** be they church or un- church, converted or un-converted.

List them below:

b. So what will you now ***talk to God*** about this verse and message?
Will you pray differently? Will you come to Him with greater awareness of His sovereignty, love, and power? Are there attitudes or patterns of thinking that you feel you need to confess to Him? Are there new ways you want to express your thanks to him? Please take the time you need to turn your Going Deeper into real prayer.

Grace and Peace to you as we ‘**Keep it Real by Going Deeper**’ by taking both God’s and our concerns to Him through prayer.