

# Different on Purpose

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New Year 2026

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## 1 Celebration to Continuation

**1** We now make the commitment to trust God and follow Jesus by obeying His instructions **Matthew 5, 6, 7.**

**2** We now progress *From Dark to Different* because Jesus entered our heart to shed *light* on the Truth—a Truth we must *cling* to.

**3** What does this *difference* look like now that the holiday is over? Am I acting, talking, and deciding any differently? Is the change even *noticed* by those around me?

**4** *Saying* that I *know* God created this world and *Saying* I *believe* in Jesus must go *beyond* words.

**5** Jesus did not visit earth just to be admired in a manger but to be *followed* as our Master. His Sermon on the Mount is a clear statement of Christian living and how to follow the only One who has the key to Paradise.

**6** If we have decided to be *different from the world*—then the darkness no longer *rules* our heart. It's a decision we make **AV Colossians 3:15** “*Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.*”

**7** That is our *calling* and *commitment* now that the **Light** has come—the words and ways of the world no longer *rule* our heart.

**8** We now make the *commitment* on purpose to trust God; It means *accepting* His Son Jesus as Lord of our life; It means He is our *Counselor* to Whom we pray when guidance is needed.

**9** It means we *trust* His Atonement sacrifice for every aspect of our life.

## 2 Given a Gift

**10** Jesus left us His Spirit to guide us every day in making scriptural decisions; talking in a godly way; and treating those we interact with as Jesus would treat them—and He told us we *must* treat them right. We are *Different on Purpose*, so we follow His *Word on purpose*.

**11** And the Word tells us **AV Colossians 3:16** “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.*” Jesus adds **NKJV Matthew 7:12** “*Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them.*”

**12** Being *Different on Purpose* is a key issue because no one enters God's kingdom on *their own* and in their *original* condition.

**13** We *cannot* enter His kingdom due to the guilt of the sins we have committed one time or many times.

**14** **AV Romans 3:23** “*All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*”

**15** Everyone at some time has been *dishonest*; *looked* with lust or coveted something belonging to another. Millions have been *angry* without a cause; or harbored *hated* in their heart.

## 3 Trust Only God

**16** Millions *trust* in something *other* than God—there is no one who can say they have *not sinned* in one way or many.

**17** How many have *not kept* the Sabbath holy? Or *coveted* someone's house, wife, car, or possessions? How many have *not honored* their parents; have *cheated* on tax returns; told something that was *not true*; or made an *idol* of something?

**18** Millions *say* they believe in Jesus, but they resist obeying Him because it sounds restrictive.

**19** But obedience is *not* bondage—it is *freedom*. **NKJV John 8:36** “*If the Son makes you free, you*

*shall be free indeed*”—free to trust God and free from the wrong ways of the world.

**20** We have been the recipient of many blessings—all of which come from the gracious hand of God.

**21** Even knowing this we still *complain* and ask for *more*, or *newer*, or *better*. Being contented with what God has given is seldom considered be the majority.

## 4 Wide Road or Narrow Path

**22** Jesus told us to **NKJV Matthew 7:13** “*Enter by the narrow gate,*” but the narrow way requires being *different* from the world—it requires a commitment.

**23** Jesus concludes His sermon by saying why the *narrow* way is the *only* way: “*for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction.*” The wide road requires no thought or commitment.

**24** The world wants convenience; popularity; comfort; and following the masses.

**25** Followers of Christ, however, choose faithfulness; integrity; and obedience—living *differently on purpose* because choosing the way of the world leads to a horrible fate of the unbelieving, and with no way to reverse that decision. It is something they will regret forever.

**26** That is not a pleasant thought, but it is the Word—and it makes us *think* about the Lord who *suffered* and *died* for us, so that we could be *healed*, *forgiven*, and *ready* to forgive any sin against us.

**27** Jesus shed His *Blood* and gave *His life*, so that we could live a *different life* from the world.

## 5 Out of the Tomb

**28** Jesus came *out of the grave* so that we would come *out of the world* and come away from wrong *attitudes* and *decisions* of the past.

**29** The resurrection power of *Christ* overcame the destroying power of the devil.

**30** God just asks us is to *admit* to our sins, *place* them at the *foot* of the cross, and make the decision to trust on His power for the change that is needed.

**31** AV Psalm 32:5 “*I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.*”

## 6 Time to Decide

**32** There are over *8 billion* people in the world—and the majority are heading for the worst fate imaginable.

**33** All anyone would have to do to *change* their *direction*, and *destination* is to change their reading material—from secular to spiritual.

**34** If anyone is so *unfortunate* as to end up in that horrible place, they will have *no one to blame* but themselves, because their *decisions* decided their destiny! They decided that living God’s Truth was not something they wanted to pursue.

**35** God does not want *anyone* to perish—He wants *everyone* to be *saved*—*everyone* to escape a horrible ending!

**36** If anyone will surrender their *heart* and *life* to God—and if they will *Stay* with that decision through every trial, trouble, and test along the way, they would escape what is coming on the ungodly and rebellious.

## 7 A Decision Must Be Made

**37** God proved He loves us by giving His Son to die on the Cross for *us*. AV Romans 5:8 “*God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*”

**38** Jesus gave *His* life to give us a *new* life—one that *chooses* to *love* and *forgive* others no

matter *what* happened; *who* did the wrong; *when* it took place; or *how* serious it was.

**39** Jesus pleaded—AV Matthew 23:37 “*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together—and ye would not!*”

**40** Repeated *verses* mean repeated *warnings* AV Luke 13:34 “*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem—35 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.*”

**41** Jesus’ own people chose not to be *different on purpose* but chose to be *rebellious on purpose*—they joined the crowd.

**42** NIV John 3:19 “*This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.*”

**43** How many have failed to *love* God with all their heart? How many have failed to *love* their neighbor? How many have *not* kept the Sabbath holy but used it for other activities? How many have been covetous?

**44** How many have harbored resentment and anger against someone? Even though NKJV 1 John 3:15 “*Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*”

**45** How many have made an *idol* out of something—replacing God with a person, an activity, or an interest?

**46** Knowing this and we stood before God on Judgment Day—and if every *secret sin* or *idle word* we have said were presented as evidence against us—what would be the verdict? Obviously *guilty* on all counts and deserving the sentence of the unbelieving.

## 8 Forever Grateful

**47** Therefore, we have to be thanking God and His Son Jesus every day and throughout the day—never failing to recognize His presence and his working with us.

**48** How thankful should we be that Jesus took our place on the cross to give us this new life? He was *bruised* for our iniquities.

**49** He *paid* our sin debt, so we could be *pardoned* of the sins and wrongdoings we had been guilty of for years—that is how much God loves us Romans 5:8.

**50** It is all connected to our wanting to be *Different on Purpose*—to not *blend in* with the world, but to *stand apart* from the ways, words, and unscriptural attitudes of most people. It is all connected to our being committed to *do* the will of God.

**51** The basic requirement of God the Father is WEY John 6:29 “*This,* replied Jesus, “*is above all the thing that God requires—that you should be believers in Him whom He has sent*”—

**52** *Being Different on Purpose* is an easy decision!



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