

# (RE)START

WHAT WILL YOU CHANGE?



## Part 2: (Re)Start your Purpose

### Sermon Big Idea

Everyone of us has something that we determine to be our purpose in life. Maybe it is your family, your work, your hobbies, or something else. But how could our lives be different this year if we decided to find our purpose through our relationship with Jesus instead?

When the Holy Spirit works in our lives to make us a new creation, it leads to a new purpose. Paul describes the big picture of that purpose in 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, but it's still up to us to discern and discover our own personal purpose that will fit within the bigger purpose.

### Discussion Questions

1. When we meet someone new, we often ask the question "What do you do?" How do you answer that question? What does our answer say about where we often find our purpose in life?
2. Read Acts 8:1-4. The early Christians were arrested, beaten, jailed, and often had their livelihood and business taken away from them because of their belief. Why do you think the early church was able to withstand the persecution that they faced?
3. What happened to the church when they were persecuted? How did God turn this into something good for his kingdom? Why is this important?
4. Read Acts 9:1-19. What do you see as the defining moments for Saul during his encounter with Jesus, his three days of blindness, and Ananias coming to speak to Saul?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 Paul wrote this later on in his life. Why is it critical that we see ourselves as a new creation before we try to live out the greater purpose that Paul describes here?
6. What happens if we try to live out our purpose on human strength alone?
7. How can the promise of Matthew 28:20 strengthen us?
8. What are some ways that your talents, abilities, skills, and spiritual gifts can be used to further God's kingdom and share the message of Jesus with others?

### Scripture Passages

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Paul writes to the church of Corinth about being a new creation that leads to a new purpose.

Acts 8:1-4,

Persecution of the church begins, spreading the message of Jesus beyond Jerusalem

Acts 9:1-19

Saul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus causes him to lose his vision until Ananias is sent by God to pray for Saul and tell him his new purpose. (Later in Acts, Saul is re-named to Paul.)

Matthew 28:20

Jesus promises his followers that he will be with us always.