

TITLE AND NUMBER: 162: What are we here for?



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Mark 1:4, 7-8

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

LOOKING FURTHER: Mark 1:1-8; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 12:14-26

What does this Bible passage tell us?

God gave John the Baptist a very specific job to do; he was to prepare people for the coming of Jesus and for His message. Crowds of people came to see and hear John; he could have got carried away with his own success, but he made sure the people knew they were not to follow him but to look out for Jesus, the greater one who was to come.

It is easy for us to try and match or beat what others are doing. However, doing this can cause us stress or anxiety, disappointment or failure, because we may try to do things that we are not equipped for. In his letter to the Ephesians (Ephesians 2:10), Paul tells them that they 'are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.' In 1 Corinthians 12:14-26, he explains that we have different jobs to do for God, but they are all equally important.

If we are to grow and know peace and satisfaction as Christians, we need to find out what the specific job is that God has called us to do, and to commit to doing it consistently and joyfully, as John the Baptist did.

However, whatever our specific calling in the Kingdom of God, everything we do should proclaim the same message that John brought, that if we repent (confess what we have done wrong and ask God's help to change), then we are all assured of God's forgiveness. In our reflections below, we will consider how we might explore what God is calling us to do.

WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR?

Reflections:

- Give thanks for God's forgiveness. Ask Him to guide you in prayer for His peace and assurance to be in your heart. Speak to a chaplain if you feel troubled.
- Brother Andrew, who for many years helped Christians in countries where they were persecuted for their faith, said, 'The call of God is in seeing the need.' Ask God to show you the situations where He is calling you to reach out and help at this time in your life.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

