**JESUS CENTRAL: KNOWING GOD A LITTLE BETTER**

Scriptures: Colossians 1:15 – 23, Matthew 28:18 – 20, Mark 16:15 -16, Acts 1:8

According to a well-known NASA study, about 98% of 5-year-olds test as a “creative

genius” by the age of 10. This percentage drops to 30% by the age of 15 and so on. Only 2% of adults are test as a “creative genius”. The reason for the gradual decline is erosion of “divergent thinking” - the ability to create multiple unique ideas or solutions to a problem.

 Divergent thinking and asking the question “why” go hand in hand. From the NASA report, one can conclude that most adults don’t understand purpose, live with or for purpose and probably don’t have a “purpose”.

One of the most important questions one can ever ask is “WHY”? This is true because

there is a strong relationship between your ability to answer the “why” and a resultant

flourishing. This applies to individuals and organizations. This is why at every

opportunity, Jesus always tried to communicate His “why”. (John 10:10 (NLT), John 18:37, Matthew 20:28, Mattew 15:24, Mark 2:17.

There is God’s mission for all believers and within that overarching mission is embedded

a mission for individuals and groups of believers. For instance, Matthew 28:18, Mark 16:15

and Acts 1:8 are the marching orders for all believers; but Paul had a mission to the

gentiles while Peter and James were stationed in Jerusalem.

What is our mission? Why do we exist?

 To answer that question, we must define what a mission is. It describes the purpose and intention and also demonstrates the work involved in achieving the vision. Simple stated, your mission is what you do daily to attain the vision. Your mission is to your vision, what your core values are to your culture.

Like Jesus, Paul and Peter, we must know why we exist - our MISSION. Knowing why

we exist is critical in many ways to our flourishing. I believe that our mission is to “lead

people to center their lives around the person of Jesus”. In essence, we open our doors and maintain our building because of our MISSION.

* We spend every dollar the way we do because of our mission.
* We organize our weekly gatherings the way we do because of our mission.
* We keep LOM our food bank open because of our mission.
* We are structured the way we are because it serves our mission and so on.

What does this mean? Colossian 1:15 - 23 helps to understand the centrality of Jesus in

everything, which is why we have come to a Person, not an institution, not a philosophy - a

Person that holds all things in his power.

There are three words that captures the essence of our relationship with Jesus and the

centrality of His Person in our lives.

The words are: COME, BE, and GO.

1. We come TO him
2. We are (be) IN Him and,
3. We Go FROM Him.
4. This circle of COME, BE AND GO is recurring even after becoming followers of Christ. For instance, a. we come to him daily, b. we are continually changing into His image and going to do what we are being transformed into.

Our mission will help us do the following:

1. Streamline our tasks to the essentials only.

2. Make wise decisions and allocate resources well.

3. Stay focused and on track.

I f we pursue this mission wholeheartedly, we will see more people COME to Christ, more

people BECOME like Christ and more people GO into the world FROM Christ.