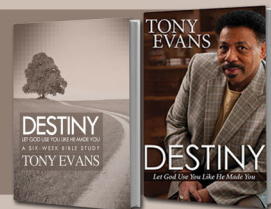


# DESTINY

## Sermon Outline



## MESSAGE ONE

### **SUGGESTED PASSAGE:** Proverbs 3:5-7 (NASB)

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

### **MESSAGE GOAL:**

This sermon will help people understand what destiny is, why it's important, and whether or not they are fulfilling it.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Millions of people loved Seinfeld when it aired. A college drama department did a study to find out why Seinfeld was so popular. They determined that the reason was because of its plotless programming. Seinfeld just meandered haplessly from one scene, one circumstance to the next without connection. The drama department concluded that Americans who lead plotless lives prefer plotless TV programs.

There's a plotlessness that exists in many of our lives today. Often we move from one scene, one circumstance to the next without purpose. We wander from high school to college, from college to our first job. Then we're just dying to get married. Then we're just dying to have kids. Next we're dying to get them out of the house. Then we're dying to retire, only to find out that we're just dying – never having known why we were alive in the first place. But what would life look like if we all lived with a purpose, with a destiny? How would we act and think differently if we saw God's hand in the plots of our lives connecting one circumstance to the next in the tapestry of His will? Hope, purpose, and joy will permeate our lives if we begin to follow our destiny.

### **SERMON POINTS:**

#### **1. GOD HAS GIVEN YOU A DESTINY**

- Destiny is the customized life calling for which God has equipped and ordained us, in order to bring Him the greatest glory and the maximum expansion of His kingdom.
- Every Christian must understand their destiny or primary purpose in life, which is to glorify God and make His name known. (Isaiah 43:6-7)

- Destiny always starts with the place of God in our lives. If we want to find our destinies, God must occupy the central place in our hearts, minds, motivations, and actions. (Deuteronomy 6:5)
- The heart of destiny is to serve the purposes of God. As we obey and serve the Lord, He will make His purpose for us clear. (Proverbs 3:5-7)
- The cross was Paul's identity and hope

#### **2. GOD'S DESTINY FOR YOU WILL LEAD TO A FULFILLING LIFE**

- When people don't live with the sense that God has given them a divine purpose in life, they become depressed.
- Each member of the body of Christ has a unique role to play. But when some members don't fulfill their God-given destiny, the body cannot function. (Romans 12:4-8)
- When you know your destiny, you know your value in God's eyes.
- When you discover your destiny, you'll begin to live life like you never have before.
- Though persecution plagued the apostle Paul throughout his life, he frequently looked back to the destiny Jesus gave him on the Damascus Road and regained the confidence to keep going (Acts 9:3-6; 22:6-10)

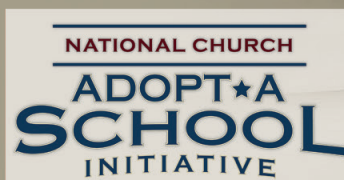
#### **3. DETERMINE IF YOU'RE FULFILLING YOUR DESTINY**

- We know that we are fulfilling our purpose by the impact we have on others.
- King David fulfilled his God-given purpose and impacted others.
  - "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep." (Acts 13:36)
- We will all die and the only thing we will leave behind is the eternal impact we have made on others.

### **SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:**

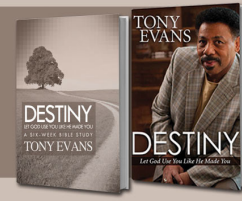
**GOD'S DESTINY IS WORTH PURSUING:** There was a little girl who asked her father for a nickel. He reached into his pocket but he didn't have any change. So the father pulled out his

our society's problem  
is not solely our *government's* problem.  
it is **the church's** problem.  
it is *our* problem.



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wallet and all he had was a twenty dollar bill. His little girl had been a good girl so he said, "Sweetie, I don't have a nickel, but here's a twenty dollar bill." The little girl pouted and said, "But daddy, I want a nickel." The father tried to explain how many nickels the twenty dollar bill represented, but she didn't get it. Many of us are the same. We want a nickel when God wants to give us a twenty-dollar bill. We want our will so much that we miss out on God's perfect destiny for us – one that is worth much more than twenty dollars!

## **GOD'S DESTINY REQUIRES SINGLE-MINDED FOCUS:**

When Yogi Berra and Hank Aaron played baseball against each other, they had a playful rivalry. During one particular game, Hank Aaron stepped up to the plate and Yogi, the catcher on the opposing team, tried everything to distract Hank. "Hey Hank, you can't hit. Your mama can't hit. And did you notice that your name on the back of your uniform is spelled wrong?" Well, Hank didn't pay any attention and he slugged the next pitch over the centerfield wall. After he rounded the bases and touched home plate, he looked back at Yogi and said, "Hey Yogi, just thought you might want to know. I didn't come here to read." Just like Hank Aaron, when we stay focused on our destiny, the voices that try to distract us become more and more silent.

## **QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:**

"Destiny is your customized life calling for which God has equipped and ordained you in order to bring Him the greatest glory and the maximum expansion of His kingdom."

"When you know what you're here for, there may be a lot of voices, but they don't distract you."

"At the heart of destiny is serving the purposes of God."

"If you disconnect your life from God, you disconnect yourself from your destiny."

