

The Best is Yet to come (1)

"A Journey to Abundant Life"

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." — John 10:10b (ESV)

"God's Plan for Your Best Life"

Jeremiah 29:11; Ephesians 2:10

Introduction: God has a plan for your life – His plan really is the best plan! And you can begin to live it today!

Today, we'll discover how trusting the divine Architect's plan leads to the abundant, fulfilling life He intended for each of us.

As you know, "They say life is what happens while you're making plans. *But what happens when you start living by God's plans?*"

I. God's plan is personal (Eph. 2:10):

Notice three things Paul points out about God's personal plan for our lives...

A. We are the product of God's workmanship

1. He raised us (vv.1-10)

- a. We were dead in sin
- b. We were dead in spirit
- c. We were dominated by Satan

2. Thank God verse 4 starts, "But God!..."

- d. But God redeemed me!
- e. But God raised me!
- f. But God reconciled me!
- g. But God recreated me – for a new purpose!

3. Believers are God's workmanship because they have been created (a work only God can do) in Christ Jesus. Greek word for workmanship Ephesians 2:10 denotes a work of art or a masterpiece.

- a. We are our Lord's "masterpiece"
- b. What an awesome thing to know about ourselves!
- c. Each one of us is uniquely designed by God-

Accepting that you are God's masterpiece means recognizing your unique value.

B. We are the plan of God's workmanship

Paul reminds us our lives, His plans for us, are ultimately to be a part of God's plan "...prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

C. We are the presentation of God's workmanship

God's workmanship is not achieved by good works, but it is to result in good works (cf. Titus 2:14; 3:8).

Remember we are "His workmanship" it's not our works – it is as His works in and through us, that is plan for our best life! God's good works are meant to be seen and heard through us as we live out His plans for our lives.

II. God's plan is good (Jeremiah 29:11):

A. Even in challenges, His plans are to bless us.

1. Jeremiah's message reminded them that, even in exile, when God seemed far away, God had not abandoned them.
2. Instead, He had a purpose for their current circumstances and a promise for their future.

B. Some key insights we take from this verse:

1. There is hope in hardship:
2. The promise of "plans to prosper" and "a future hope" was a declaration of God's sovereignty and His ultimate desire was for their good.
3. It speaks to God's sovereign plan (*I want you to know this morning, God always has a plan, and even in our chaos, His plans are always perfect and right.*)
4. God's plans are intentional and purposeful, even when our times feel chaotic.
5. It assures us that He is in control and orchestrates events to bring about His greater purposes.
6. The hope that is emphasized here is a *hope anchored in God's character*:
7. The promise of hope and a future reflects God's faithfulness, love, and mercy.

It invited Israel and it invites us to trust in His character and timing.

C. Jeremiah 29:11 assures us that God's plans for us are good, even when circumstances seem uncertain.

1. It teaches us to trust that He is working behind the scenes, bringing about a future filled with hope and purpose.
2. Whether we face trials, transitions, or triumphs, we can find peace in knowing that the same God who cared for the Israelites also has a perfect plan for our lives.

When facing difficulties, ask yourself, "How might God be shaping me or preparing me for what's ahead?"

View your challenges as opportunities for God to continue work to out His good and perfect plan for your life and future so you can have your best life.

III. God's plan requires partnership (Proverbs 3:5-6):

A. Trust in the Lord and acknowledge Him in all your ways:

1. To trust in the LORD whole-heartedly means one should not rely (lean) on his understanding, for human insights are never enough.
2. God's ways are incomprehensible – (Isa 55:8-9; Rom 11:33-34)
 - a. While this is true, He is trustworthy. All the wisdom a person may acquire can never replace the need for full trust in God's superior ways.
 - b. "Heart" in Hebrew refers to one's emotions (Prov 12:25; 13:12; 14:10,13) but more often to his intellect (such as understanding, 10:8; discernment, 15:14; reflection, 15:28) or will (5:12).

B. This requires an "all in" complete dependence.

Like a GPS requires you to input the destination and follow the guidance—trusting God's direction works the same way. Just as a GPS recalculates when we go off course, God's grace redirects us when we stray. It's never too late to trust His plan.

When you identify any area of your life where you try to control the outcome. We need to quickly surrender it to God and commit to seeking His direction through prayer and Scripture if we are to enjoy God's plan for our best life! (Jn. 10:10)