

# MADRID CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

2017 ANNUAL THEME:

## PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

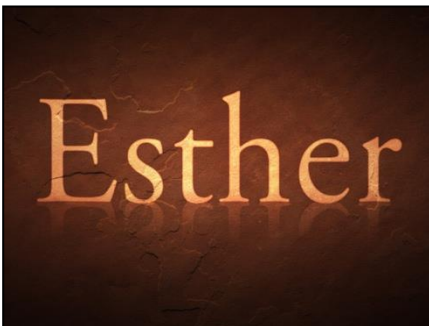


EPHESIANS 6:10-20

**"PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL" (EPHESIANS 6:11).**

### TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9AM



11AM



**JESUS CHRIST "HUMBLED HIMSELF BY BECOMING OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH, EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS" (PHILIPPIANS 2:8).**

# MY MAIN GOAL IN LIFE?

## BY WES MCADAMS

People tell me all the time, their main goal in life is to go to heaven when they die. In fact, I'm quite certain I've said the exact same thing before. I've always thought that was the very best goal a person could have, but I've changed my mind. The more I think about that phrase, and especially the context in which it is usually stated, the more I think it often reveals a misunderstanding deep in our hearts. Here are a few thoughts on having heaven as our main goal in life.

### **Making it to Heaven**

What exactly do we mean when we talk about our goal of making it to heaven? When we have a goal, we must have some way we hope to achieve that goal, right? If I told you that my goal was to lose 15 pounds, then you might ask me, “**How do you hope to achieve that goal?**” And then I would answer with a list of all the good behaviors I was going to implement in order to try to accomplish my goal. Sadly, many of us think this way about going to heaven. We tend to think of all of our good behaviors as an attempt to be good enough to make it to heaven. Which leaves some of us feeling pretty confident we've done all that God requires to make it to heaven. But more often, it leaves many of us in constant fear that because of our imperfection, we've not been good enough to make it to heaven. Some are trying to do the minimum and others are trying to do the impossible. These are indications that many of us simply do not understand the Good News of Jesus Christ.

### **Understanding Grace**

We live in a culture (thankfully) where if we want something, we can usually save up our money until we can afford to purchase it. But in biblical times, there were many things which the average person simply could not purchase. These things would be inaccessible to people on the lower rungs of the social ladder. If the average person needed something which he could not purchase, he would ask for “favor” from a generous person in upper-class society. If this wealthy person chose to grant the request, he would become the man's patron or benefactor. The favor he bestowed was known as “charis,” which is the Greek word we translate

“grace.” This favor that was granted came with certain expectations. If someone showed you grace, it became your life-long duty to spread their fame and also loyally serve them whenever they needed you. This was NOT an attempt to repay the favor; it was simply the proper response of a grateful recipient.

The New Testament says, “God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—**by grace you have been saved...**” (Ephesians 2:4-5). This is how salvation works, God gives it as a gift (vs. 8). God is the unbelievably generous and wealthy benefactor who shows favor to sinners who desperately need what only He can give – pardon and forgiveness.

### **Understanding Good Works**

In the first-century world, one of the worst things you could be was ungrateful. If you accepted someone’s “charis,” but you were not faithful to him, you would become a social outcast. No one would want to show you any additional favor, because you had proved yourself to be an ungrateful recipient.

The idea of grace and gratitude are inextricably linked. In fact, it’s not hard to see that even in modern English, the words “grace” and “grateful” have the same root. This is because “grace” used to be, not only the word for the gift that was given, but also for the proper response to the gift. We still sometimes call praying before a meal, “saying grace.” And in Spanish, the word for “thank you” is “gracias.” When someone shows you grace, you respond gratefully.

That is what our obedience to God is all about. That is why we do good works. That is why we sing His praises. That is why we tell our neighbors about the Gospel. **We are NOT trying to make it to heaven. We are showing our gratitude, because he has “seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”** (Ephesians 2:6).

Doing the will of God must NEVER be seen as an attempt to make it to heaven, but should be seen as works of gratitude because he has given us a seat in heaven by grace. We should want to do whatever God wants us to do, because we are incredibly grateful for what He has given us.

If we have – in repentant faith – put Christ on in baptism (Galatians 3:27), then God has graciously given us a seat with Him in heaven (Ephesians 2:6). In Christ’s death, He has already accomplished what was necessary to get us to heaven; so we need to get a new goal! Our goal needs to be to show Him gratitude through undying praise and faithful service.

If we persevere in grateful service, we have nothing to worry about because we are saved by His merits...not ours.

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- 05/07 – No Song Service in May (prayer service took its place)
- 05/05 - 6:30-9:30pm - Board & Brush Family painting get-together – \$65/person (questions - contact Jen Williams)  
[www.boardandbrush.com/clive/events/church-christ-girls-outing-private-event](http://www.boardandbrush.com/clive/events/church-christ-girls-outing-private-event)

*If there is an event you are planning that you want put in the bulletin, let Jason know!*

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### **DAILY READING:**

- **05/01** – Isaiah 52-54; Psalm 119:97-128
- **05/02** – Isaiah 55-57; Psalm 119:129-152
- **05/03** – Isaiah 58-60; Psalm 119:153-176
- **05/04** – Isaiah 61-64; Psalm 120
- **05/05** – Isaiah 65-66; Psalm 121
- **05/06** – Hosea 1-5; Psalm 122
- **05/07** – Hosea 6-10; Psalm 123



### **VISITORS:**

If you are visiting with us and have any questions about what you have seen or heard today, please fill out a visitor’s card or contact us using the information below. We would be happy to schedule a time to sit down with you and to answer your questions from God’s word. Call or text Jason @ 412-999-4837 or email him @ [preacher@madridchurch.com](mailto:preacher@madridchurch.com)