**HIS PEOPLE HIS PURPOSE** 2021-03-14

***Theme scripture:***

**EPHESIANS 4:16(NLTSE)** He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love

***Introduction to this series***

* Like Jesus is busy preparing a place for us, **(JOHN 14:2(NKJV)** In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you), God is building a “place” for those who are hurting, lost, discouraged, fearful, rejected, deceived, sick, lonely.
* The “place” that God is building, is not a building. No, it’s ***His People, for His Purpose***
* The beautiful and mysterious aspect of this building process, is that God is using the very same ones who are the hurting, lost, discouraged, fearful, rejected, deceived, sick, lonely, to be a source of encouragement and blessing, to those who are the hurting, lost, discouraged, fearful, rejected, deceived, sick, lonely.

***His People. God’s building material***

It’s of amazing encouragement to know, that God is willing to use messed up people like us, to change this world, on heart at a time

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-18(NLTSE)**

7 “We now have ***this light*** in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this ***great treasure***. *(this great treasure is the ministry referred to in 2 Corinthians 4:1)* This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

8 We are pressed on every side by ***troubles***, but we are not crushed.

* What trouble are you facing in your life right now?

We are ***perplexed***, but not driven to ***despair***. 9 We are ***hunted down***, but never abandoned by God. We get ***knocked down***, but we are not destroyed. 10 Through ***suffering***, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

11 Yes, we live under ***constant danger of death*** because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. 12 So we live in the ***face of death***, but this has resulted in eternal life for you.

13 But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, “***I believed in God, so I spoke***.” 14 We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to Himself together with you. 15 All of this is for your benefit. And as ***God’s grace reaches more and more people***, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

16 That is why ***we never give up***. Though ***our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day***. 17 For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! 18 So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.”

***Conclusion***

God is a wise master builder and He’s using us as His building material

**EPHESIANS 4:16(NLTSE)** He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love

* Would you like to be part of God’s amazing building project?
* Would you like to be used of God, to be a source of encouragement and blessing, to those who are hurting, lost, discouraged, fearful, rejected, deceived, sick, lonely, even though you yourself are hurting, lost, discouraged, fearful, rejected, deceived, sick, lonely?
* Through the transforming grace of Jesus Christ, this is most certainly possible

**CARE GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. Why do you think it’s important, to choose the right building materials, to build a building?
2. Why do you think God is willing to use people, who are not be the best choice for building material, for His building process?
3. What does God’s selection of us, as building material, say about His character?
4. What role do you think you have to play, in God’s building process?