**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, September 17, 2017**

**Sermon Title: On Purpose: Serving With Purpose**

**Scripture: Romans 12:1-8 (*NLT*)** 12And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. 3Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. 4Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. 6In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

**Romans 15:1-13 (*NLT*)** 1We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. 2We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. 3For even Christ didn’t live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, “The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me.” 4Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled. 5May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. 6Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory. 8Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors. 9He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for his mercies to them. That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote: “For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing praises to your name.” 10And in another place it is written, “Rejoice with his people, you Gentiles.” 11And yet again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles. Praise him, all you people of the earth.” 12And in another place Isaiah said, “The heir to David’s throne will come, and he will rule over the Gentiles. They will place their hope on him.” 13I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only)**

Leader: Scripture calls us to intentionally bless the Lord at all times. As his church we have the unique opportunity to praise his name together. Let’s read [Psalm 34:1-3](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ps%2034.1-3), as we are reminded and encouraged to magnify the Lord together on this day and every day.

**People: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.
Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!**

**Basic Theme: *A Christian life is a life lived on purpose that begins and ends with God. To discover our purpose, we must first realize that our identity is grounded in a relationship with Jesus Christ. In his book The Purpose Driven Life, Rick Warren writes, “Without God life makes no sense.” If you want to discover your purpose and bring greater meaning to your life, you must begin with God–“Everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.” (Colossians 1:16b, Msg) Our ultimate purpose is to glorify God in all we do… on purpose!***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): In addition to discovering our purpose, each of us is tasked with identifying our place within the body of Christ. We are all given unique gifts and are to use those gifts in service to God within his church. If we fail to use our gifts, not only is the body incomplete, but we also fail to contribute to the mission God has given our church. We cannot live into our vision of becoming a center of hope in our community unless each member uses his or her gifts. We must intentionally participate in the life of the church and serve with purpose.**

**So What? Have you identified the unique gifts with which God has blessed you? If so, are you using them to build up the body of Christ? Where are you called to serve? Are you helping others to identify their gifts and offering them a place to serve alongside you? What will motivate you to contribute to fulfilling the mission and vision of Hillside?**