

God's Plan for You ▫ **Genesis 11:1-9**

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Main Idea: God's plan for you is to follow God's priorities, in God's presence, for God's praise—all of which can be summed up in one Word: Jesus!

Introduction: Often, while we are telling ourselves that we would like to know God's plan for us, the hard truth about our hearts is that we're trying to figure out how God can fit into or facilitate our plans for ourselves. We're not alone, the whole of humanity had fallen entirely into this error in Genesis 11. They wanted to follow their plan, in one another's presence, for their own praise. But truly, we exist to follow God's priorities, in God's presence, for God's praise.

1. God's Priorities. The mass-reproduction of replicas of Christ.

God's priority for us was for us to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth with little replicas of Jesus Christ. Their plan was to stick in one place. And, if they were going to do that, then that would necessarily have put limits upon their multiplying.

When you plan (do you plan?), how do you remind yourself of the Lord's priorities?

2. God's Presence. False dependence, false devotion, and false fear all come from being overaffected by the presence of men and under-affected by the presence of God.

And it was one another's presence that they were emphasizing. They had one language and one speech. They resolutely determined NOT to be spread out over all the earth. Twice, they say *to one another*, "Come let us." And the Holy Spirit lines that up right next to God's own, "Come, let Us" in v7. While it is laughable that they could build a tower up to the presence of God, yet the language of, "Yahweh came down" reminds us that the Lord didn't have to go anywhere to do this. How often we forget that we are continually in the presence of the living God!

What habits do you have in place to keep yourself mindful of the Lord's presence?

3. God's Praise. Man's chief end is to glorify God. God is all about Himself for our sakes. When we become all about ourselves, it is never genuinely for His sake.

Indeed, when we remember that we are always in His presence, it will help slow down our foolish desires to "make a name for ourselves." This didn't do a lot for Nimrod, whose reputation was literally "before Yahweh" in 10:9 (could even be translated, "in Yahweh's face"!). But, God helping us, we should not be so foolish as to attempt to make a display of ourselves if we remember that we are always before His face.

And we were created to live entirely for God's praise. We simply cannot truly live for the glory of God and at the same time aim at having people also be impressed with us.

By what habits do you train your heart to aim only, always at the Lord's praise?

Conclusion: Christ is God's ultimate priority for us. Christ is God's ultimate presence with us. Christ is God's ultimate praise to us, by us, in us, and through us.