I. Purpose

- a. Something set up as an object or end to be attained: intention; resolution, determination
- b. Our purpose is to share the Gospel through our good works
 - i. Matthew 5:14–16 (ESV) 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
 - ii. Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- c. God's purpose in creating the world and mankind was to show us what true love looks like
 - i. John tells us that God is Love and that we only know what love is through
 - ii. 1 John 4:19 (ESV) 19 We love because he first loved us.
- d. Just as we share the Gospel through our good works, Jesus saved us through His work, His purpose

II. To Reclaim

- a. "Man of sorrows, what a name, for the Son of God who came, ruined sinners to reclaim"
- b. Ruined sinners
 - i. The idea of us being 'ruined sinners' can be hard to accept
 - ii. Genesis 6:5 (ESV) 5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
 - iii. The Old Testament is there to remind us that we have a sin problem;
 - 1. Adam, Cain, the tower of Babel, etc
 - 2. Just about every book of the Old Testament reminds us that we have a sin problem
 - iv. Romans 3:23 (ESV) 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - v. Romans 6:23a (ESV) 23 For the wages of sin is death,
 - vi. Romans 5:12 (ESV) 12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—
 - vii. But each of these verses has good news attached to them
 - viii. Romans 3:23–24 (ESV) 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

- ix. Romans 6:23 (ESV) 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- x. Romans 5:15 (ESV) 15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.
- xi. The New Testament is there to remind us that 'ruined sinners' can be reclaimed!
- xii. Colossians 1:13–14 (ESV) 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- c. "Hallelujah! What a Savior"

III. Atonement

- a. "Guilty vile and helpless, we, spotless Lamb of God was he. Full atonement, can it be?"
- b. Atonement is the means of reconciliation between God and mankind
 - i. Generally, 'exchange' one thing for another ¹
 - ii. On the Day of Atonement, the high priest would exchange a sacrifice for His sins and then one for the sins of all Israel
 - 1. A bull for his sins
 - 2. Two goats, one for the sins of Israel (Azazel) and one for sacrifice
 - 3. Leviticus 16:9–10 (ESV) ⁹ And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the LORD and use it as a sin offering, ¹⁰ but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the LORD to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.
 - 4. God forgave Israel, but not because of the blood of bulls and goats, or the Azazel
 - iii. The exchange was Jesus for mankind
 - iv. That was always Jesus' purpose (even from 12 years old in the temple)
 - v. Whenever Jesus says or does anything, its purpose is to get Him to the Cross so he can atone for mankind

c. Full Atonement

i. One sacrifice (Jesus) for all time, for all people, for all sin!

- ii. 2 Corinthians 5:20–21 (ESV) ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- iii. We cannot be God's righteousness and be dead in our sins

¹ William Arndt et al., <u>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</u> (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 521.

- iv. Colossians 2:13–14 (ESV) ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
- d. "Hallelujah! What a Savior"

IV. A New Song

- a. "When He comes, our Glorious King, all His ransomed home to bring. Then anew this song we'll sing, Hallelujah! What a Savior."
- b. Isaiah 53:3–6 (ESV) ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- c. Jesus' purpose was to redeem, to reclaim, to be our atoning sacrifice
- d. Hallelujah! What a Savior