

His name was Marv Goldberg. He was a coach. Not a famous coach, but that understood the importance of a plan. Gordon MacDonald writes about coach Goldberg in his book "A Resilient Life." Gordon was a student at Stony Brook High School on Long Island. As he writes in his late 60's he still remembers the impact that coach Goldberg made on his life.

Every day, just before lunch, the students could watch out the window as coach Goldberg walked across the athletic field to post his practice schedule for that afternoon. The names of every track and cross country athlete were posted on the bulletin board with detailed instructions for the young athletes. Practices were grueling and always with a specific goal for each individual athlete.

Coach Goldberg had two goals in mind. **SHORT TERM:** to prepare his athletes to compete at the very best of their ability in local and state track and field. **LONG TERM:** to prepare these young men for the challenges of life. To teach them endurance, team work, and discipline.

The young men at Stony Brook hated the long and difficult practices. They complained. They groaned. They often did not understand **WHY** they had to run so many successive drills and endurance runs. But they endured. **Not only did they ENDURE they COMPETED for a spot on coach Goldberg's track team.** They knew that he had a **PLAN** to help them compete at the highest level. (Gordon MacDonald, "A Resilient Life," (x, xi).

We can endure the difficulties of life when we remember that **GOD HAS a PLAN.**  
**Jeremiah 29:11** *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

We have been studying Paul's plans as he describes them in Romans 15.  
Discovering God's Will as we make our plans.

**Romans 15:32** *"So that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed."*

LAST WEEK: *"Knowing God's Will Begins With Knowing God."*

TODAY: *"Discovering Your Unique Part in God's Plan."*

Romans 15:17-22 *Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. 18 I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading*

*the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done— 19 by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. 20 It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. 21 Rather, as it is written:*

*“Those who were not told about him will see,  
and those who have not heard will understand.”*

*22 This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.*

Paul believed that God had given him a **Unique Part in His Plan**

Each of us has a **unique part in God's plan**

**1 Corinthians 12:7** *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*

**12:12** *The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.*

**12:18** *But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.*

**12:27** *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

## **Paul's Testimony of his Life's Calling**

Paul's Life's Calling Glorified God. 15:17

Ephesians 1:12 *in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.*

1 Corinthians 10:31 *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

**Paul's Life's Calling Brought Others into a Closer Relationship with Christ. 15:18.**

He was an **EMBASSADOR**.

**“Paul served like an ancient herald who walked throughout the city proclaiming only what the king chose to make known” (Mounce, NAC, “Romans,” 267)**

**2 Corinthians 5:20** *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

**Paul's Life's Calling was Empowered by God. 15:19**

**“Signs and Wonders”**

**“Wonders” (NIV “signs”) occurs 16 x in the NT and is always accompanied by the word “miracles”**

**Wonders “... emphasizes the unusual nature of the event (contrary to nature).**

**“Signs” calls attention to its signficance.” (Mounce, 267)**

**This was apostolic power.**

**But the SAME SPIRIT empowers you and me!**  
**1 Cor 12:7-11**

**Paul's Life's Calling was measurable. 15:19b**  
**From Jerusalem to Illyricum**  
**The major cities of the Roman world**

**Paul's Life's Calling was Specific. 15:20**  
**To Preach Christ Where He Was not Known.**

**Paul's Life's Calling was BOLD.**  
**To preach Christ where He was not known**  
**Only God could accomplish this in his life**

**Paul's Life's Calling Directed his decisions.. 15:21**

## **Is There a Unique Part in God's Plan for Me?**

**YES!**

**Most of us will NOT be pastors, missionaries or full time Christian Workers.**

**How to Discover Your Unique Part in God's Plan**  
**Glorified God. 15:17**

**Ultimately, my life is Christ!**

**Colossians 3:4** *"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."*

**Galatians 2:20** *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*

**Bring Others into a Closer Relationship with Christ.**  
**Your Life's Calling is NOT your employment**  
**Your Life's Calling has an ETERNAL focus**

<b>Earthly focus</b>	<b>Eternal Focus</b>
<b>Pastor: pastor a church of 200 or more</b>	<b>Lead God's people closer to Him through His Word</b>

<b>Businessman: make my first million by age 30</b>	<b>Gain wealth honestly and use it to advance the cause of the gospel in my local church and around the world</b>
<b>Mom: Raise successful kids</b>	<b>Raise godly kids who will be champions and lead others to Christ</b>
<b>Nurse: Be the best nurse I can be</b>	<b>Show hurting people God's compassion as I care for them.</b>

**Rely on God's Power.**

**Measure your progress in fulfilling God's purpose for your life**

**Write down your life's calling**

**Talk about it to those closest to you**

**Regular times of reflection**

**Refine it**

**Be Specific!**

**Be BOLD!**

**Allow your life's calling to direct your decisions.**

*Illus - Brittany Pantilione. Since she was in Olympians, she believed that God wanted her to go to Italy*

*took Italian in HS*

*Chose a school that would provide spiritual development*

*Chose an academic path that would give ministry skills useful for a woman in ministry*

*Summer internship*

*Now, will continue with her education.*

*Return to NJ or PA to work while she prepares to go.*

*Still YEARS down the road*

*Will all these plans happen perfectly? ONLY GOD KNOWS!*

*Romans 15:32 so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed.*

**God Has a Plan!**

**Paul. “Minister of Christ to the Gentiles” (Romans 15:16)**

**Dorcas. Acts 9:36 *In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor.***

**David. 2 Samuel 7:18 “*Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?*”**

**Jeremiah. Jeremiah 1:5 “*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.*”**

**Esther. Esther 4:14 “*..And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?*”**

**The same God is still in power!**

**He has a plan for your life!**