

Discovering Your Purpose in Life

Ps. Craig Mobey

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 (NIV)

⁵ *But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.*

⁶ *For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near.*

⁷ *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

⁸ *Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”*

Introduction

Paul writes this toward the end of his life. Have you thought about how you will describe your life towards its end?

Have you given your all or did you hold back? Did you fight the good fight or throw in the towel? Did you finish the race or give up? Did you keep your faith?

If you have not discovered your purpose in life, chances are, you will take many regrets with you to the grave.

This message will help you discover your true purpose, and then live it.

A Seemingly Unanswerable Question

A professor once asked some students what their purpose in life was. A few answers – try and see which one resonates the most with you:

1. To study, graduate and be successful. The professor replied, *“That is your job and career ambitions but it’s not your purpose.”*
2. To get married, have a family and live happily ever after. The professor replied, *“That is with whom you will live and how you plan to live, but it’s not your purpose.”*
3. To make enough money to buy the car of my dreams. The professor replied, *“That is what you will drive but it’s not your purpose.”*

The students were now becoming worried, another thought she had it, the bigger picture and answered:

4. To buy a big house one day for my family. The professor replied, "*That is where you will stay; not your purpose.*"

Finally, one student was certain that he had the answer, he looked toward the future and said smugly:

5. "To retire comfortably." The professor replied, "*There is more to life; you still have not fulfilled your purpose.*"

Nobody could answer the professor.

So...what about you? Can you answer the professor?

Paradigm Shifting

There are two Scriptures that we must first firmly grasp hold of before we attempt to answer the professor.

The first is Psalm 139:16, "*Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*"

All the days of your life were known to God before you lived one of them. God watched your body being formed. Two things stand out:

1. You are valuable to God. Scripture is clear, He chose you, Jesus died on the cross for you and God is intimately concerned with you, through all of your life.
2. You are not a random act of creation. There is a purpose to your life.

The second is Ephesians 1:4-5, "*For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love, he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-*"

God choosing you predates the creation account of Genesis chapter 1.

And I must emphasize, that although He chose you, He chose you to exist in a certain state or condition, and that is, "*...holy and blameless in his sight.*"

Read further, "*...sonship through Jesus Christ...*"

Let's bring these 2 Scriptures together:

- You are not here by accident. You are here for a purpose.
- You are the well-planned ultimate act of the Creator. You are more than the result of your parents' reproducing. God chose you.
- Your existence must be through Jesus; this is how God has planned things to be. You cannot live your life's purpose disconnected from Him who chose you!

Resetting

We all more or less know the names, purposes and functions of all of our internal organs and various body parts. So, we know what the human is made of, but very few know the purpose of a human.

Could our purpose be somehow linked to the routine of life? Sleep – eat – work – sleep – eat – work etc.? Or is there more?

Let's look at it another way, a lot is happening as you struggle to get ahead; to make progress. At what point would you say that you are succeeding?

If you are trying to win the rat race, you are also trying to be the number one rat!

A survey done a while ago among British people revealed the following:

- 10% believe they would be better off dead.
- 25% said that they were unhappy in their jobs.
- 33% felt exhausted, unappreciated, or underpaid.

Christine Webber, the psychotherapist who carried out the survey, said, *"Sadly, it comes as no surprise to me that so many people are unhappy at home and work. It seems that people's lives do not live up to their extremely high expectations. It is particularly worrying to see so many people dwelling on morbid thoughts, with a large proportion just plainly exhausted by life."*

Since the Fall, mankind has been stuck with a dilemma. No matter how hard he or she tries, God cannot be found from within the fallen self. In a sense, we can perhaps argue that the goal behind Atheism, Scientology, Bahai, Islam, Buddhism, Confucius, Hinduism is an effort to try and regain or find what was lost.

No wonder then, so many people have absolutely no idea what their purpose in life is: they are separated from their Creator!

We who are reconnected with God through Christ can only discover our purpose when we begin to understand what God's purpose for us is. God through Christ:

- Establishes a family of sons, not servants.
- Establishes a Kingdom, not religious organizations.
- Establishes a Kingdom of kings, not subjects.
- Establishes a commonwealth of citizens, not religious members.
- Establishes a relationship with mankind.
- Extends His heavenly government to earth.
- Influences earth from heaven through mankind.

Before we can understand our purpose, we need to build a Kingdom mentality. All the student's answers to the professor were self-centred. Your purpose in life is not self-centred!

Changing Priority

Your purpose follows from your priority, and you must appreciate the importance of the Kingdom of God. There is a King in a Kingdom, and Matthew 6:33 reads, "*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*" These are Christ's words.

Also, Christ's words are the "*all things.*" "*All things*" refers back to verse 31, "*So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'*" These are the things that unbelievers will chase after, making them a priority and in so doing, establishing a self-centred purpose for their lives: success, wealth, greed, lust etc.

If there is only one King in a Kingdom, who is everyone else? Specifically, if that King is God, who is everyone else and why did He choose us before the foundation of the world? Why did He watch you being formed in the womb and why are all the days of your life known to Him? Why did He, in love, send His Son, Jesus, to die in our place? Why do we have life everlasting beyond the grave, through Jesus? What is the purpose of it all?

Your Purpose

With the foundation laid, let's consult Scripture, specifically 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Romans 11:36, "*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God*" and "*For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.*"

Your purpose is also reflected in the first question of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, “*What is the chief end of man?*” to which the answer is, “*Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.*”

Therefore, the ultimate purpose of man, according to the Bible, is simply to glorify God. If you are not doing this in everything you do, then what are you busy with?

Since God created man in His image your purpose cannot be fulfilled apart from Him. We fulfil our purpose of glorifying God when we live our lives in a worshipful relationship and faithful service to Him.

How do we do this? (Conclusion)

There are four laws to keep in mind:

1. God loves you and you were not born without purpose.
2. Because of sin, man is separated from God and therefore, cannot find the true purpose for his life.
3. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin and through Him, you can live your life's purpose.
4. We must individually receive Jesus as Christ as Saviour and Lord.

Prayer:

God, I know that I am a sinner.

I know that I deserve the consequences of my sin.

However, I am trusting in Jesus Christ as my Saviour.

I believe that His death and resurrection provided for my forgiveness.

I trust in Jesus and Jesus alone as my personal Lord and Saviour.

Thank you Lord, for saving me and forgiving me.

Amen!