

WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?

40 Days of Purpose, Part 1

April 26th, 2009

Life's 3 Greatest Questions

1. Question of Existence: Why am I alive?

Jeremiah 20:18 (GN) "Why was I born? Was it only to have trouble and sorrow, to end my life in disgrace?"

Life without purpose isn't worth living

Ways we try to find out why we are alive:

*mystical approach – to find the purpose of life look within

*survivalist approach – the purpose of life is to just stay alive

*naturalist approach – the purpose of life is to perpetuate itself

*hedonist approach – the purpose of life is pleasure

*materialist approach – the purpose of life is to acquire things

*self-help approach – you have to invent your purpose

Being a success and knowing your purpose in life are not the same thing

Proverbs 16:4 (GW) "The Lord has made everything for His own purpose."

Ephesians 1:4 (TM) "Long before He laid down earth's foundations, He had us in mind, and settled on us as the focus of His love, to be made whole and holy by His love."

God says: I made you to love you

2. Question of Significance: Does my life matter?

Isaiah 49:4 (NLT) "My work all seems so useless! I have spent my strength for nothing & for no purpose at all."

You will live at one of 3 levels in life:

*S urvival level

*S uccess level

*S ignificance level

a. You know the meaning of life

b. You know how much you matter to God

c. You know God's purposes for your life and you are living them out

Isaiah 44:2 (CEV) "I am your Creator. You were in My care even before you were born."

Psalms 139:16 (LB) "You... scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in Your book!"

Psalms 33:11 (GN) "His plans endure forever; His purposes last eternally."

God's purposes are eternal

God says: I was made to last forever

One of the biggest ways to waste your life is thinking all there is, is here & now

Life is preparation for eternity

2 Corinthians 5:1 (GN) "When this tent we live in – our body here on earth – is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home He Himself has made, which will last forever."

Proverbs 9:6 (TM) "Leave your impoverished confusion and live! Walk up the street to a life with meaning."

3. **Question of Intention: What is my purpose?**

Psalms 89:47 (NCV) "Why did You create us? For nothing?"

If you don't know something's purpose, it is likely to be abused or misused

The only way to know what some things are for is either: a. talk to the creator
b. read the owner's manual

Genesis 1:1 (NIV) "In the beginning God created..."

Proverbs 9:10 (LB) "Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding."

Colossians 1:16 (TM) "For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible... everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him."

Ephesians 1:11 (TM) "It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for... part of the overall purpose He is working out in everything and everyone."

God says: I find my purpose by getting to know **God**

Acts 10:35 (TM) "It makes no difference who you are or where you're from – if you want God and are ready to do as He says, the door is open."

"It's never too late to be who you might have been." George Herbert

My Next Step Today Is:

- To the best of my ability, I will hear all 7 messages in the series, "40 Days of Purpose"
- I will read "The Purpose Driven Life" book every day for 40 days
- I will join a "40 Days of Purpose" small group
- I will memorize the Bible verse for each week of "The 40 Days of Purpose"
- I want to play in the New Hope co-ed softball league starting in June