

Finding the Purpose of Life

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We live in a world of unbelief and rebellion concerning the fundamental truths of our existence. Therefore, our world is filled with trouble. One of the tragedies of our times is that most people don't really appreciate the gift of life! If they did, they would acknowledge their Creator and respond in reverence and thanksgiving. Forgetting God means that He is thought to be nonexistent or unimportant! When everything in the world and everything throughout the entire universe proves or declares the infinite wisdom, power, and righteousness of God, a person has to be very foolish to be an atheist! In Psalm 14:1-3 we read:

The *fool* has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt. They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who *seek God*. They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one (NKJV, emphasis added).

And in Romans 1:18, 25, we read:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness . . . who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator.

Because of mankind's refusal to believe the unlimited witness that has been given to them, their world is filled with confusion, trouble, suffering, and death! The prophet Jeremiah said: "I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps (Jer. 10:23). The apostle Paul said: "Whatever is not from faith is sin" and "the carnal mind is enmity against God" (Rom. 14:23, 8:7). How can people expect to find the right kind of life when they

refuse to acknowledge their Creator and cooperate in regards to learning His way to live? Isn't it reasonable to believe He knows best when all of creation shows that His wisdom, love, and righteousness are far, far greater than ours? We read: "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:9).

David told his people: "As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him" (II Sam. 22:31). During the time of Noah, eventually it became necessary for God to judge the world. We read: "the wickedness of man was great in the earth . . . and indeed it was corrupt; for *all* flesh had corrupted *His way*" (Gen. 6:5, 12, KJV, emphasis added). During history there have been other judgments upon nations and empires, proving that mankind lives under the sovereignty of the Creator! Jesus said that before his return, there would be "wars and rumors of wars" (Matt. 24:6). He taught that wickedness would develop more and more in the world until there would be "great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world" (Matt. 24:21). Divine intervention will be necessary because we read: "unless those days were shortened [limited], no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matt. 24:22). Even now, secular authorities are saying we are "living at the beginning of the end." An example is the book *How the End Begins: the Road to a Nuclear World War III* by Ron Rosenbaum. Even current events are telling us that *only God's way will endure!*

In general, men are determined to live according to *their* thinking. But the hope of the human race is *God, working by means of His son!* World conditions will continue to grow worse to the point of no return (humanly speaking). But we have been given many prophecies throughout the Bible telling us *God will intervene* on behalf of His people. The following are some examples:

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of

the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore (Isa. 2:2-4).

The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, The haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, And *the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day* (Isa. 2:11, emphasis added).

They shall go into the holes of the rocks, And into the caves of the earth, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily (Isa. 2:19).

Sever yourselves from such a man, Whose breath is in his nostrils; For of what account is he? (Isa. 2:22)

The false religions in this country, together with the atheists and humanists who dominate public education, the media, and the world of entertainment, are leading people down the road of *certain disaster*! Each one of us must decide *with whose thinking are we going to think: God’s or man’s!* If we can understand the purpose for which we have been given life, we can begin to see things in a true perspective. When we see that God’s purpose is the result of *infinite power, wisdom, and love*, we will seek *Him!* There needs to be sincerity and humility on our part. As creatures in a marvelous world and universe, our attitude should be that of little children. Small children trust and obey their parents. We read:

Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven [or kingdom of God].” (Matt. 18:2-3, Mark 10:13-16).

We can know and learn God's purpose for us if we take an *attitude* that is *appropriate*! The person who is well-satisfied with himself and self-sufficient will not seek his Creator. He doesn't really know himself or the fact that he is 100% dependent upon the provisions and the will of God!

The Bible clearly teaches us that God's desire is that all mankind seek Him. A sample of many verses is:

Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near (Isa. 55:6).

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart (Jer. 29:13).

Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you (Hosea 10:12b).

Jesus said:

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. . . Ask, and it will be given to you . . . For *everyone* who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened (Matt. 6:33, 7:7-8, emphasis added).

Because of the witness of Christ and of his followers, *we* have the *priceless truth* by which we can *discern God's high purpose for our lives*! We find that Christ is *the means* by which we can experience this purpose!

Paul revealed this purpose in his message to the people at Mars Hill in Athens, Greece. We read:

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is

He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since *He gives to all life, breath, and all things*. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so *that they should seek the Lord . . . and find Him*, though He is not far from each one of us; "for in Him we live and move and have our being" . . . but now *commands all men everywhere to repent*, because He has appointed a day on which He will *judge the world in righteousness* by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:24-28, 30, 31, emphasis added).

We also read:

For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? (I Cor. 4:7).

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning . . . What is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that (James 1:17; 4:14-15).

God's purpose is to restore the original creature-Creator relationship that existed in the very beginning before man rebelled against Him. In spite of all that He has done for man (i.e. everything!), He has to wait in incomprehensible patience *for a response of gratitude and love!* Man's unbelief, his refusal to repent (reject all evil), his guilt, and misdirected desires keep him from finding the greatest discovery of life! He could have mercy in receiving forgiveness, reconciliation, and a sure hope of immortal life when Christ returns! Jesus said: "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his [life]?" (Matt. 16:26).

It is important to remember that our Creator has *a goal* concerning the human race, and that there is nothing that can stop Him from fulfilling that purpose! We read:

Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it . . . I have made the earth, And created man on it. I—My hands—stretched out the heavens, And all their host I have commanded . . . Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and *there is no other*. I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath. He shall say, “Surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength. To Him men shall come, And all shall be ashamed Who are incensed against Him” . . . This is the purpose that is purposed against the whole earth, And this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. For the LORD of hosts has purposed, And who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, And who will turn it back? (Isa. 46:11; 45:12, 22-24; 14:26-27, emphasis added).

Nothing could be more sure than God performing what He has purposed! Don't we want to be thinking and living in harmony with that purpose? Every alternative is to be feared!

He is perfect in righteousness; and *we* must change, not Him! His purpose for us is “for our good always, that He might preserve us alive” (Deut. 6:24). No one could love us more! What more could we desire? We can honor and please Him when we *choose* to love and obey Him! Decision on our part *is essential!* The joy of loving fellowship is the result of thinking in harmony with our Heavenly Father! We read: “Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?” (Amos 3:3).

From the beginning of the human race, over thousands of years, God has been giving many, many prophecies concerning His son. *Many* minute *details* were foretold that no human being could have known before the time of their

fulfillment! All of this information has been given so that people could believe and come to know God's greatest gift to them! Jesus chose his Father's will throughout his life, even against the worst opposition! He also experienced the greatest peace, love, and joy in his Father's fellowship! David, king of Israel, prophesied concerning him; and Peter, following Christ's ascension, said:

For David says concerning Him: "I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in [the grave], Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me *full of joy* in Your presence" (Acts 2:25-28, emphasis added).

Christ has experienced and proved the incomprehensible joy or happiness of life in fellowship with God. We can have this also by believing! *Everything has been done to make it possible!* Jesus is our living *mediator* to "bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). Through him, God is "calling out" a people for His great eternal purpose; calling them out of the evil thinking of the world to think with Himself! Paul said:

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a *holy calling*, not according to our works, but *according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ* (II Tim. 1:7-9, emphasis added).

We read also:

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom

He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren . . . What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not *with Him* also freely give us all things? . . . *Oh, the depth of the riches* both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! (Rom. 8:28, 29, 31, 32; 11:33a, emphasis added).

The prophet Jeremiah said:

Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For *in these I delight,*” says the LORD (Jer. 9:23-24, emphasis added).

Micah 6:8 says:

He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to *walk humbly with your God?* (emphasis added).

There have been millions of people who have found the wonderful life of faith! It wasn't by their own “righteousness” that they found it; but by honesty in repentance of their sins, and faith in Christ as God's son who bore their judgment. They believed that God accepted His son's substitutionary death and raised him to life immortal! Christ has been working in their lives; transforming them into his own likeness in preparation for the “restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:21). Jesus was the only person qualified to be man's substitute, since he lived out God's will completely! He was, therefore, without sin in his own life. *The fact that he is God's only begotten son, who was born by His power, the holy spirit, gives infinite worth to his life!* God's love for His son is far, far greater than we can

comprehend! It is easy to see how *he alone* is able to bring us into a right relationship with God! (For further explanation, read Romans 5:1-11.) Paul's letter to the Romans, as well as his other letters, explain God's great work of reconciling people unto Himself! *May we take advantage of the priceless opportunities that have been made available for us!*

Man is the highest form of creation on earth! He was made for the purpose of living with his Creator and glorifying Him. When a person has a proper relationship, his life glorifies his Maker. His life is one of worship in appreciation of God's greatness, goodness, and love! He desires that God should receive the honor that is due unto Him! He loves God with all his heart and desires to please Him! The love of Christ for his Father is seen in his submitting his life to great sorrow and death in order that the wonderful purpose of saving the human race could be accomplished and God be glorified! While the majority of mankind lives in unbelief and does not glorify their Creator, when truth is established in the earth, everyone will live for His honor and glory! It has been well-said: "The highest good is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever!"

The desire of God for each of us is far more wonderful than we can realize! When we find forgiveness, we find love, security, and joy that is far greater than we knew before! The Bible tells us that God looks at the heart. This figure of speech, speaking concerning our innermost thinking and feelings, is what is important to God. The heart of man can be compared to a *temple* where *God alone* is exalted, worshiped, and loved supremely! When other things come first or take the place of God (a form of idolatry), there is contradiction, confusion, and unhappiness. *We are made for our Creator* and our hearts are restless until they rest in Him! We are to find completion or fulfillment, or true happiness, in Him! The restoration of the original purpose is the goal of God. The purpose of Christ has been to "reconcile" or "bring us to God" (I Peter 3:18). *His suffering*, the judgment of our sins, was *so we could be forgiven* and made free from sin, suffering, death, and judgment! He knew that reconciliation would eventually result in eternal life! His life was a "temple" of God (John 2:19, 21). The purpose of God is that *we too* might become a "dwelling place of God" (Eph. 2:22). Jesus prayed that his followers might have the privilege of God's presence in their lives (John 17:20, 21, 23, 26). All the riches of the world are not worthy to be compared to this privilege, which is not only for today but for eternity!

Those who let God choose what He wants for them find that His judgment is immeasurably better than their own! He gives us the “true riches.” (For more information, read: Luke 16:11, 13; Rom. 11:33; Eph. 2:4-7; 3:8, 18, 19; Col. 2:2-3; 3:1-4). The nature of the life that He has for us today is far more valuable than all that the world has to offer us!

Have you ever thought how much it means to have God’s favor in finding our way in what is coming up in the future? We really don’t know how to prepare ourselves because we do not know the future (note James 4:13-15). But God, who is perfect in knowledge, knows details of the future as well as the past. Prophecies of the Bible are accurate because of His perfect foreknowledge. We read in Acts 15:18: “Known to God from eternity are all His works.” In many verses of the Bible He teaches us to look to Him for guidance. Isaiah 45:22 says: “Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth” and “Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer . . . [and] *the LORD will guide you continually*” (Isa. 58:9, 11, emphasis added). He asks that we pay attention to His teachings, especially the teachings of Christ!

Divine blessing depends upon overcoming evil. We live in a world of forces — good and evil. We are called to be spiritually strong and overcome all that opposes the life and purpose that God has for us! We can’t just “go with the tide,” or “go with the crowd”. We *have* to choose whose thinking we are going to follow! Our decisions will determine our circumstances in the future. If we will take time to seriously consider all that our Heavenly Father has done for us during our lifetime, it should be easy to decide!