

THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE
Message two: “It All Starts with God”
Key Verse: Colossians 1:16
Pastor Love Saquing March 7, 2004

Introduction

Opening III.: Show Highway video, “What’s the meaning of Life?”

Context: In today’s pluralistic, tolerant society everyone’s ideas are valid and no one’s philosophies can be deemed “wrong” . . . Yet a book like “The Purpose Driven Life” can still be the #1 New York Times bestseller. People are desperately looking for purpose despite all the ideas that are out there.

MP: My purpose is life is not found in me, but in God.

OR “It’s not about me, it’s about God”

I. What hinders us from finding purpose? Speculation —Man’s Ideas

III.: Student in a private city school religious class asked me, “What is the meaning of life?”

A. Ourselves

- “We ask self-centered questions like What do *I* want to be? What should *I* do with *my* life? What are *my* goals, *my* ambitions, *my* dreams for *my* future?” (p. 17)
- Rom. 3:23—“*For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*”

B. Our stuff

- We say to ourselves, “If I only get this _____ I’ll be set.”
- If you can’t be satisfied with the stuff you already have you’ll never be satisfied with the next new possession.
- Matt. 6:33—“*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.*”

C. Our schedules

- Our personal & family schedules are way overbooked.
- Business does not necessarily mean effectiveness or happiness.
- (Turn & read Luke 10:38-41 [Pew p.1020)—Mary chose to worship Jesus.

II. What helps us find our purpose? Revelation—God’s Word

What does God’s Word say about our purpose?

Recite Colossians 1:16 [Pew p.1154]-“*For by Him all things were created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. (NKJV) (cf. Jn. 1:1)*

Read Ephesians 1:11 [Pew p.1146]-“*It’s Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.*” (MSG)

Here are Rick Warren's three insights from Ephesians 1:11 into our purpose:

- A. You discover your identity and purpose through a relationship with Jesus Christ.
(Col. 1:13, 14) [Pew p. 1154]—We are delivered from the power of darkness to the kingdom of the Son.
(Gal. 4:3-7) [Pew p.1143]—We are adopted as sons of God who can call God “Abba” Father.
- **III.:** After seeing “the Passion of the Christ” movie how could you not say, “Thank you, Jesus for dying for me and saving my soul! What do you want me to do?”
 - We find purpose not by asking ourselves “What do I want?” but instead “What does God want?”
- B. God was thinking of you long before you ever thought about Him. (Jer. 1:5) [Pew p. 737]
- (John 8:58)—Jesus said He knew Abraham saying, “before Abraham was, I AM.”
- C. The purpose of your life fits into a larger and eternal purpose. (Rom. 8:28) [Pew p.1110]
- Whatever you think of Predestination and Free will, God always has the “Big Picture” in mind to bring glory to Himself and to accomplish His purposes through your life.

Conclusion

MP: My purpose in life is not found in me, but in God.

OR “It’s not about me, it’s about God”

“Question to Consider: In spite of all the advertising around me, how can I remind myself that life is really about living for God, not myself?” (p. 21)

1. Read God’s Word regularly.
 - Ps.1:1-2—“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of scoffers, for his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day or night.” (NIV)
 - Ps. 119:11—“Your Word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You.”
2. Pray to God continually.
 - 1 Thess. 5:17—“Pray without ceasing.”
3. Be with God’s people faithfully.
 - Heb. 10:24-25—“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Ephesians 6:10-18 sums up why and how we can live for God and not merely for ourselves.
(Turn & Read) [Pew p.1150]

Closing Ill.: Read “An Endless Cycle”