

TURNING POINT Living On Purpose 21.6.2020 AM

There is a hunger to know purpose; we hope to live well, to die well - hearing that sweet sound of 'Well done, good and faithful servant.' Helpful resources: 'Purpose Driven Life' Author: Rick Warren. With more than one thousand scriptures within the page, can be read as a book and can be treated as a 40 day devotional, also 40 day devotion free with notes at www.purposedrivenlife.com Billy Graham described the books as one that would "guide you to greatness—through living the Great Commandment and the Great Commission of Jesus."

"For thousands of years, brilliant philosophers have discussed and speculated about the meaning of life. Philosophy is an important subject and has its uses, but when it comes to determining the purpose of life, even the wisest philosophers are just guessing. Dr. Hugh Moorhead, a philosophy professor at North-eastern Illinois University, once wrote to 250 of the best-known philosophers, scientists, writers, and intellectuals in the world, asking them, "What is the meaning of life?" He then published their responses in a book. Some offered their best guesses, some admitted that they just made up a purpose for life, and others were honest enough to say they were clueless. In fact, a number of famous intellectuals asked Professor Moorhead to write back and tell them if he discovered the purpose of life! Fortunately, there is an alternative to speculation about the meaning and purpose of life. It's revelation. We can turn to what God has revealed about life in his Word. The easiest way to discover the purpose of an invention is to ask the creator of it. The same is true for discovering your life's purpose: Ask God." Excerpt from chapter 1.

Chapter 32 shares around using what God has given us.

Psalm 139:13-16 (The Message) – we are fearfully and wonderfully knit together; custom made – deliberate, individual. *"Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; You formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God—you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvellously made! I worship in adoration—what a creation! You know me inside and out, You know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, the days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day."*

Acts 17:26 NIV *"From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands."*

Psalm 16:11 NIV *"You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."*

Jeremiah 1:4-5 NIV God knew Jeremiah before He formed him and had set him apart, sanctified him, dedicated him; appointed, ordained, assigned him. In chapter 29, the people were not where they wanted to be but it was God's plan and time for them to prosper where they were that the city would be blessed; they were to live now, for then.

Esther 4:14 *"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"*

God will not make us do anything, He will call others to stand because it is His times and purposes that prevail. We are all called for such a time as this.

Proverbs 19:21 *"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."* What God has resolved will stand.

David Psalm 78:70-72 *"He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; ⁷¹from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. ⁷²And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skilful hands he led them."*

Acts 13:36 *"Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed." He started by tending sheep and serving cheese. After David had served his purposes, he fell asleep. Also consider Joseph, Moses. There is a turning point. There*

is a starting point and according to the Word, it starts and finishes with God. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Called, saved, able.

2 Timothy 1:9 *“He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.”*

Ephesians 2:4-10 esp. *“we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works that God prepared in advanced for us to do (walk in)”*

We have been re-created for good things; we are fitted up for good things; illustration: re-badged Valiant Regals. No different on the outside perhaps but blown out kingdom machines on the inside when God gets hold of us; from base work to handiwork, no longer mere or natural men.

Romans 8:28 *“And we know that in all things God works for good for those who love Him and who have been called according to His purposes.”*

Jesus communicated many times that we would seek Him first; to find His purpose, we must first lay ours down and be led by Him, by His Holy (set apart) Spirit.

Romans 8:5-8 (The Message) *“Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God’s action in them find that God’s Spirit is in them—living and breathing God! Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self, ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. And God isn’t pleased at being ignored.”*

Esp. v6 *“the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace”* NIV

He has saved us, called us to a life set apart for His purposes. His gifts and call are beyond repentance; He does not change His mind. His call is your call. A man without purpose if perhaps like a ship without a rudder, a vehicle without a steering wheel, a horse without a bridle. God however moves us from survival to significance (in accordance with what He deems significant).

Again: 2 Timothy 1:9 *“He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. **This grace** was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.”*

Titus 2: 11-14 *“¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”*

This grace of God has appeared to all us all. This grace teaches us... we are not saved by works but we are saved and called and re-created for good works (Eph 2:10) ... **eager to do good**. God has shown us what is good: Micah 6:8 *“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”*

We make a decision to be led by the Holy Spirit; listen to His heart – what is good and proper to live well, die well and hear those words ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.’”

Communion. The finished work of the Cross. Nothing needs to be added to it or taken away. The blood of bulls could never cleanse the conscience; those who have received Christ and believed on His name are reminded every time we come around the table, share communion, that *“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”* (1 Corinthians 1:18).