

SIGNIFICANCE

Devotional | Purpose: Why Am I Here? | November 27, 2022

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP

Discuss: How would you answer this question: “What is the purpose of life?”

Key Text: *“The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.”*
(Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

In his autobiography *Just As I Am*, Billy Graham told about being invited for lunch to the home of one of the world’s wealthiest men on an island in the Caribbean. Throughout the lunch, the 75-year old man seemed close to tears, finally saying, “I am the most miserable man in the world. Out there is my yacht. I can go anywhere I want. I have my private plane, my helicopters. I have everything I want to make my life happy, yet I am miserable.” The Grahams talked and prayed with the man, doing their best to point him to Christ, who alone would be able to give him the deep meaning in life he sought.

After leaving the man’s beautiful home, the Grahams returned to the small cottage where they were staying on the island. That afternoon the pastor of the local church came to call. Despite his limited resources and difficult situation, he was full of enthusiasm and love for Christ. “I don’t have two dollars to my name,” he said with a smile, “but I am the happiest man on this island.” After the pastor left, Billy Graham turned to his wife and asked, “Who do you think is the richer man?” Ruth Graham didn’t even need to reply, for the answer was obvious. What the rich man was seeking was happiness—a reason to laugh and forget his troubles. What the pastor had already found was a deep-seated joy based not on what he possessed, but on who possessed him—Jesus Christ.

In our series “Significance,” we are discovering what the Bible says about the most important questions in life, including Origin: Where did I come from? Identity: Who Am I? and today’s question: Purpose: Why am I Here? Many go through life like the wealthy man in the Billy Graham story unfulfilled, unfocused, searching for meaning and purpose, but nothing fills the void. To find our purpose in life, and the resulting meaning and happiness that follows, we first need to know who made us and why.

1. God created us to know Him.

God has a plan in mind for us and only He can make us complete. “*God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them*” (Gen.1:27). He created us to be like Him and to know and love Him in a personal relationship. John 17:3 says, “*This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*” However, we chose to love ourselves more. This is sin, and it separated us from Him, making us incomplete. But God loves us so much that He did not give up on us. He provided the way for us to be restored—He came to earth through Jesus, took our sin to the cross to die in our place, and rose from the dead. When we trust in Jesus, our sins are forgiven, we’re brought into a right relationship with God, we find our life’s purpose, and we’re assured of eternal life with Him.

Discuss: What do these verses teach us about finding and living a fulfilled life? John 10:10; Philippians 3:7-11; 4:11-13; Colossians 3:2-3

2. God also created us to bring Him glory.

“Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made” (Isaiah 43:7). The great question, “Why am I here?” is answered by God: “I created [you] for my glory” (v.7). This statement in its context applied specifically to Israel, but it also has universal application. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

Discuss: What do you think it means to bring glory to God?

3. The best way to bring glory to God is to live like Jesus who always glorified God.

Jesus perfectly glorified God the Father and did His will in everything (Lk.22:42). We cannot know or glorify God apart from living like Jesus (Jn.4:34; 14:6). The Holy Spirit empowers us to live like Jesus after we receive Christ into our lives (Gal.2:20). Jesus said in John 13:15: “I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”

- **We bring glory to God when we serve as Jesus served.**

“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” (John 13:14)

Discuss: In what practical ways can we serve as Jesus served?

- **We bring glory to God when we submit to the Father’s will as Jesus did.**

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus” (Php.2:5). In the context of this statement, Paul is describing the humble attitude of Jesus as He came to earth as a man to die on the cross in obedience to the Father’s will.

Discuss: How can we prioritize submitting to God’s will in our lives?

- **We glorify God when we set ourselves apart from the world for God.**

“For their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth” (Jn.17:19). Just as Jesus set Himself apart from the world for God’s ways and purposes (that’s what “consecrate” and “sanctified” means in v.19), we are to set ourselves apart from the world’s ways and purposes for God’s ways and purposes.

Discuss: According to 1 Peter 2:21, how else are we called to live like Jesus?

Discuss: According to Philippians 2:13, how are we to live?

For Further Study:

Free online commentary on any book of the Bible at www.enduringword.com

“What Does It Mean to Glorify God”? article at www.gotquestions.org

The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren