

Meeker Christian Church August 7, 2022 Intro to PDL Series
“What On Earth Am I Here For.”

Our sovereign omniscience God arranged for us to be together today for a reason. And at least one part of that reason is that we recognize and acknowledge that He has a Purpose for each of our lives. From The Message Bible paraphrase of Ephesians 1:11 *It's in 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.* // Also we are here today that we may be reminded of Jeremiah 17:7-8 *“But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. 8 They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.*

Today is the first of a series of sermons with the overall title of Purpose Driven Life. We will be following the book of the same name by Rich Warren of the Saddleback Church in California. I hope you have read through page 62 for today. And then plan to read one chapter each week in preparation for that weeks sermon. Pick up a printed reading schedule in the foyer if it would be helpful.

My intent in this series is to use this resource as a way to coalesce or bring together our body of believers joining the Purpose In our Lives to be manifest through our Spiritual Gifts as a team supporting and encouraging each other in service to the Lord under the fellowship umbrella of Meeker Christian Church. The stewardship sermon last week was a practical application, an example if you will, of this effort.

We start by considering the question we have all asked in one form or another at one time or another in our lives //and may still be asking, “What on earth am I here for?” The answer begins with the delicate subject of who is in control of your life. Are you, the government, or someone else in charge of your life, and how does that come about?

Life is not just about you, no matter how the devil has manipulated your upbringing, your education, your personal experience or adaptations to life to think otherwise. Life is not just about you. Your life purpose goes far beyond personal influence or cultural acceptable accumulations, and even after your death. From Romans 12:2 our life purpose is expressed: *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

One may search the world over as the pundits have through the ages, and still fall short in understanding the purpose of life. // An illumination for the answer is Romans 1:20 *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*

The devil has tricked, twisted, distorted, corrupted and counterfeited secular minds to miss the “*without excuse*” undeniable truism that you were made by God and for God – and until you understand that, life will never make sense. And you will never have an answer for your question “What on earth am I here for?”

Inherent in that understanding, is knowing the Creator of life has full knowledge of - and everything in creation. And through that understanding we know He is reaching out to us to reveal not only the purpose of life, but the best way for us to exist in this life. Take note of Psalm 139:15-16 *When my bones were being formed, carefully put together in my mother's womb, when I was growing there in secret, you knew that I was there— 16 you saw me before I was born. The days allotted to me had all been recorded in your book, before any of them ever began. you saw me before I was born. The days allotted to me had all been recorded in your book, before any of them ever began. GNT*

God has always known how, when, where and the why of each our existences. Though it far surpasses our mental abilities to analyze and utilize the scientific method to arrive at a definitive answer, // all we have to do is consider the complexity of the universe and the combination of circumstances with the delicate balance of the elements and atmosphere of our earth resulting in our birth! God arranged all that for His purpose for you. And the simple fact we recognize a concept of right and wrong has to originate from an entity and that entity we know is God. Further we are given the privilege of receiving revelation from Him through our willingness to receive and obey it. Jeremiah 29:11 “*For I know the plans I have for you,*” declared the Lord, “*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*”

Our study lists five tools satan uses to depreciate our conviction and determination to seek the righteous purpose of life for which we are all are created. If you, like I have any of these challenges – prayerfully study them in more debt.

1. Driven by **guilt and regrets** – Paul tells how to deal with that in Philippians 3:14-15 *Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. ~~14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.~~*

2. Driven by resentment and **anger** – the clever usage of satan in this regard is to get us to disregard that resentment and anger hurt us more than than it hurts others. Here is the right response: Colossians 3:13 *Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. // The last phrase is so powerful: “Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”*

3. A third tool satan uses is **fear** 1 John 4:18 *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

4. A fourth tool of satan is so culturally motivated that it is assumed to be a predisposition of life. **Materialism** and it’s perceived security. Eternal security can

only be found in that which can never be taken away or lost – your personal relationship with God.

5. The drive for approval subtly means **trying to please everybody**. Galatians 1:10 *Am I trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

- Pleasing other people only comes as an overflow from pleasing God.-

Perhaps another way of encouraging someone to study, understand and live a purpose driven life is to ask which makes sense to them – live as best you can with the opportunities you are given for a lifetime and be done with it PERIOD! OR the alternative is live for a purpose that transcends the PERIOD, the end of earthly life! In other words live and let live? OR live for an eternal purpose?

Let me include a short list of the **benefits of living for a purpose**. It starts with:

1. Knowing your purpose gives meaning to your life or like most of us can attest at one time or another, we have felt like the book of Job records: Job 7:6 *“My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle and they come to an end without hope.* Or later in the same discourse: 7:16 *I despise my life; I would not live forever. Let me alone; my days have no meaning.* That is the recurring theme of the default setting of a life without God!

But knowing God and growing in faith starts the purpose revelation in our lives:

Ephesians 3:20 *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His (God’s) power that is at work within us,*

2. A great serendipity of knowing our purpose in life is that it simplifies life so much! Your purpose sets the guidelines or parameters for life and living. It reduces dramatically the number of decisions you have to make. When you apply the 10 commandments to life – they do not obstruct joyous living, on the contrary they make joyous living possible! You don’t have to make decisions about, stealing, murder, lying, adultery, and you know how to relate to God, language, parents, and worship.

That is what parenting is all about – teaching, training and modeling a Christlike life! Without a clear purpose you have no foundation on which you base decisions, allocate your time and use your resources.

Rick says it like this: PEOPLE WHO DON’T KNOW THEIR PURPOSE TRY TO DO TOO MUCH – AND THAT CAUSES STRESS, FATIGUE, AND CONFLICT. P35

3. A third benefit of knowing your purpose is because it causes you to be more effective and more selective. In other words, more focused as Paul expressed it for us in Phil 3:13 *~~Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.~~*

4. A fourth benefit of knowing your purpose is the motivation it brings into your life – motivation to obey God for eternal rewards instead of societal rewards for limited or indeed counterfeit rewards.

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5. Benefits of knowing our purpose in life include it gives meaning, it simplifies, a person becomes more effective, our lives are motivated and now fifthly the most significant purpose of all is knowing your purpose prepares you for eternity.

Do you remember we started by saying life is not just about you – well here is what it is about – God. It matters little what others say about your life, but what God says is what counts. The devil loves to have us get that mixed up and all turned around thinking that ourselves or other contacts on earth are more important than God. Our purpose in life is not to build an empire or leave a legacy on earth – our purpose on earth is first to preparation for eternity, then building a legacy or empire is just fine. Again Satan has managed to get cultures of all ages to corrupt that little by little and we end up with a world like today. A culture who puts legacy and empire first and eternal life second. Just opposite of what God created.

When we bring glory to God, we are doing what we were created to do: Revelation 4:11 *You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.*”

When we bring glory to God, we are doing what Jesus modeled for us to do as HE spoke in John 17:4 KJV *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*

If you don't know for sure and do want to know your purpose in life, start getting to know God better and better. The more you get to know God, the more you are going to understand the ways and the wisdom of God and the more you are going to understand the meaning and purpose of life. And the more you are going to understand everything else because the Bible says, knowing God results in every other kind of understanding. The only way you are going to learn the meaning of life and your purpose in life is to get to know God. It all starts with God, because it is all about God. *“In the beginning, God created.”* It's all about God.

All of us are at different stages in our spiritual understanding. That doesn't matter. We're all going to go through this journey together, no matter what stage you are in.

Some of you are seekers, and you're saying, “I'm not even sure I buy all this, but I'm intellectually honest enough to check it out.” Congratulations, great - we're glad to have you on the journey.

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Some of you are brand new believers and for you I'm very excited because you're going to get to start off right.

Some of you are “stumblers.” You say, ‘I call myself a Christian, but I’m not really very close to God. And I’ve been really, honestly, living for my plans and not God’s.’ Well this 40 days is the time to come home.

Some of you are strong believers, and you’re going to go deeper with God than you’ve ever gone before and you’re going to bring others along, too.

Regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey, look at this last verse from the Message Version in **Acts 10:35** *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.*

God had a purpose in bringing you here today. He wants you to know Him and He wants you to know His purposes for you. I’m going to help you talk to Him. Please stand, I ask you to bow your head and think about the words of this prayer. If you agree with what I say, just add at the closing “Me too, God.”

Dear God, I realize that if it weren’t for you. I wouldn’t be alive. But because you made me, you must have a purpose for me. I admit that I focused on my plans for my life, not Yours. But I want to know your purposes for me, so I commit the next 40 days of my life to learning about it. Thank You that You made me so You could love me. Thank You that You cared for me even when I didn’t know You. Thank You that I was made to last forever. I want a life filled with meaning. I want to start getting to know you better. - So as best as I understand, I ask You, Jesus Christ, to come into my life and help me to understand your purposes for me. I want to take the first step today. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen.

If you found yourself saying “Me too, God” at the conclusion of that prayer and have never accepted Jesus into your life, then as we sing this song of invitation, please come forward and let folks know of your decision to do so now. We will teach you the Bible message for salvation.