

What On Earth Am I Here For?

Psalm 139:13

“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb.”

Today we are beginning a series of messages that I have titled “Living 2019 With a Purpose.” In this series of messages we will be seeking to answer life’s three most important questions. The question of *existence* – “Why am I alive?” The question of *significance* – “Does my life matter?” The question of *intention* – “What is my purpose?” There are no more important questions in life than that. Why am I alive? Does my life matter? And, What is my purpose?

These are not new questions. In fact, this first question, the *question of existence* was asked by Jeremiah thousands of years ago. In Jeremiah 20:18 he said, “Why was I born? Was it only to have trouble and sorrow and to end my life in disgrace?” Jeremiah was having a crisis in his life. He was *depressed*. And so he asked himself (allow me to paraphrase), “I don’t know why God let me be born. My life is a mess! All I have is problems, difficulties, trials, and tribulations. Is this what I’m here on earth for? Just to have problems?”

This question can be very frustrating – “Why am I alive?” And the truth of the matter is if you don’t look to God for your *purpose in life* you only have a couple of options.

This first option is the *Mystical Approach*. You can find this in a lot of New Age books. You can find it in seminars. You can certainly find it in talk shows. The mystical approach to defining the purpose of life basically goes like this: “Look within. Look within yourself. Do introspection and look inside you and there you’ll find the purpose of your life.” That sounds so spiritual. There is only one problem with it. It doesn’t work! If looking within could help you discover your

purpose in life everybody here would already know our purpose. I have done it. You have probably done it. Almost everybody has tried to look within – what am I here for. But the answer is not inside you. You were created and you have to look out to your creator to find your purpose.

The second kind of approach people take toward discovering their purpose is called the Self Help approach. You can go into any Borders or Barnes and Noble, any kind of bookstore, and find 60, 70 books that talk about discovering your purpose in life. I can save you a lot of money. They all say the same thing. You've got to invent your purpose. You've got to create it. You've got to make it yourself. You've got to figure it out, discover it, make up your own purpose. Not only do they say the same thing but they all give the predictable steps: consider your dreams, go after your ambitions, aim high, set some goals, manage your time, be disciplined, believe you can achieve, have the greatest intentions, involve other people, set the limits of your dreams really big, never, never give up. All of those suggestions are very good advice for becoming successful. And if you will do those things you will probably become successful in life. But you can be a raving success in life but still never know why God put you on earth, still never know your purpose. I know lots of people who are successful in their career and other areas and yet, they don't have the foggiest idea what their purpose in life is. Because the purpose in life is not just acquiring possessions; prestige; power and pleasure. Oh, no! Your purpose is far bigger than that.

The purpose of your life is far greater than your personal fulfillment. The purpose of your life is far greater than your own happiness. The purpose of your life is far bigger than your peace of mind or your success. Those are all good things but that's not what you were put here on earth for. It's much more than that.

So then you can try the philosophical approach. Dr. Hugh Morehead, a philosophy professor at Northeastern Illinois University once wrote to 250 of the best-known philosophers and

scientists and writers and intellectuals of the 20th century. He asked them one question, “What is the purpose of life?” **He then published their answers in a book.** It was quite depressing because not one of those 250 philosophers knew the meaning and purpose of life. Many of them just offered best guesses and admitted they were guesses. Many of them just said, “I just made up a purpose.” And many of them said, “I don’t even know if there’s purpose in life.” In fact, a number of these intellectuals wrote to Dr. Morehead and said, “If you figure out what the purpose of life is please tell me.” Carl Jung a famous psychiatrist wrote back to Dr. Morehead, “I don’t know the meaning and purpose of life but it looks as if something were meant by it.” Isaac Asimov, the famous science fiction writer, wrote, “As far as I can see there is no purpose to life.” Joseph Heller wrote, “I have no answers to the meaning of life and I no longer want to search for any.” **That is a tragic statement because a life without purpose is pointless.** **A life without purpose isn’t worth living** and it is no accident that in our culture the suicide rate is skyrocketing. **Suicide among teenagers is now the second leading cause of death.** Why? **Because life without purpose is pointless.** **You were made for a purpose.**

Why did God make us? Why are we alive? **Why are we even on this planet?** **Is there a reason?** Is there a purpose?

Proverbs 16:4 says, “The Lord has made everything for His own purpose.” Not for your purpose, not for your pleasure, not for your goals and ambitions and dreams. But God made you for His purpose. **God has never made anything without a purpose.** He doesn’t just make stuff for no reason. Every animal has a purpose, every rock has purpose, every plant has a purpose, and every human being has a purpose. **If you are alive, your heart is beating and you are breathing, God has a purpose for your life.** He has never made anything without a purpose.

The truth is, you were made for five purposes. In this series of messages we are going to look at these five reasons God put you on this planet, the five reasons that give meaning to your life, five

purposes you were put here on earth. Today I just want you to understand the motive behind it. Why did God create me for His purpose?

Ephesians 1:4 says, “Long before He laid down the earth’s foundations He had us in mind. And He settled on us as the focus of His love to be made whole and holy by His love.” The Bible says that I was created to be loved by God. The Bible says God is love and He created you an object of His love. He made you to love you. He didn’t need you. He wasn’t lonely. The only motive God had for making you was to love. That’s why you were made. That’s why you are alive.

Notice the Bible says, “Long before He laid down the earth’s foundations He had us in mind.” Before God thought about the universe you were on His mind. That’s how much God loves you. Before God created the entire earth, before He laid down the foundations of this planet, He created just the right environment for you. That’s what makes you special. He had you in His mind and He made you for one reason – to love you. Until you understand that motivation you’ll never understand what on earth am I here for.

2. The second greatest question of life is that of significance – “Does my life matter?” Maybe God made me to love me but does my life matter? Isaiah asked this question in Isaiah 49:4, “My work all seems so useless. I have spent my strength for nothing and for no purpose at all.” Without a purpose, life seems trivial, petty and pointless. You were made for meaning.

Every one of us here lives life at one of three levels. At the most basic level is the Survival Level. Most people live at this level. They are living life in the survival mode. They are just getting by. They are not really living. They are just existing. They put in their time and they live for the weekend. They are just surviving. They are controlled by their circumstances. Most of the world lives at the survival level.

The next step up is the Success Level. That level is where many of you are here today. You have comfortable living and a comfortable home. You live in America, which puts you way above everybody else. You have some possessions, you have some prestige, and you have some pleasures. You get to go to entertainment and restaurants and all kinds of things that most of the world would never even dream of doing. You have achieved a level of success and status in your life.

But what you really need is life on the next level and that is living a life of significance. That is the level where you find meaning and purpose.

How does one go about finding significance in life? There are only three ways.

1. When you know the meaning of life. That gives you significance.

2. When you know how much you matter to God. That gives you significance.

3. When you live out God's five purposes of your life. That gives you significance.

Have you ever really thought about how much you matter to God? Listen to what God says in Isaiah 44:2, "I am your creator. You were in My care even before you were born." The Bible says this in Psalm 139:16, "You (God) scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in Your book." God has a plan for every single day of your life. That is how much you matter to God. God is interested in every detail of your life. He has seen it all – the good, the bad, and the ugly. And He recorded it in His book even before you were born. He knew all the dumb decisions you would make. He knew all the dumb decisions other people would make that would hurt you and how you would hurt others. But He still loves you. And He still has a plan and a purpose and we are going to see those in the days ahead. You do matter to God.

Listen to this statement found in Psalm 33:11, “His plans endure forever. His purposes last eternally.” **The plans that God have for you will go on for eternity.** If you don’t get anything else, get this: **Life is preparation for eternity.** That is the meaning of life. **God put you on earth to prepare you for what you are going to do the rest of eternity with Him.** His *plans* and *purposes* for you are eternal.

3. **That brings us to the question of intention.** What is my purpose? David asked this question in Psalm 89:47, “Why did you create us? For nothing?”

Ladies and gentlemen, you are not going to find the answer to the purpose of life anywhere but one of two places – one, talk to the creator, and two, read the owner’s manual. You were made *by* God and you were made *for* God, as seen in Colossians 1:15-17, “(Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers – all things were created by him and for him; and he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” **Until you understand that the meaning of your life will not make sense.** That, my friend, is what it’s all about.

The more you know God, the more you are going to understand the meaning and purpose of your life. Listen once more to Colossians 1:16, “For everything – absolutely everything – above and below, visible and invisible, everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him.” **It all starts with God.** It is all *sustained by God*. Someday the world is going to end with God and it’s going to go on in eternity with God. **It’s all about God.** It’s not about you.

Ephesians 1:11 reads like this, “It is in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for, part of the overall purpose He is working out in everything and everyone.” **If you want to know your purpose you have got to know God.** Start by getting to *know* God. How do you do that? **By getting to know Jesus Christ!** Jesus made this promise in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man

cometh unto the Father, but by me.” **The way to the Father is through the Son there is no other plan!** If you have never invited Christ to come into your heart, forgive you of your sins and make you a Christian why not come today?

Everyone please stand for prayer.

Father,

I realize if it were not for You I wouldn't even be alive. Thank You that You cared about me even when I didn't even know it. Thank You for having a plan and purpose for my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.