

LIVING ON PURPOSE

(1 Pet. 1:13-25)

Introduction:

1. Life is a precious gift from God that he intends for us to enjoy. But He also gave us this physical life for a reason, in order to achieve a purpose. We have not been placed in this physical universe in order to kill time.
2. Many people live their lives as if it is something to be endured, forgetting that life results in death! Many people live their lives as if it were a scavenger hunt, forgetting that at the end there is no prize for the most stuff collected, nor is there an afterward where we can simply revel in our past experiences. Many people live their lives as if they are direct objects in their own life, forgetting that they are in charge of every aspect of their life.
3. Let us consider the reality of our lives: that life is about choices; not about excuses; and that there is a purpose for our lives that we ought to pursue.

Discussion:

I. Life is all about choices.

- A. Everything we do we do because we have chosen to do it. We got out of bed this morning because we chose to.
- B. Consider the Bible admonitions to choose (Gen. 4:7; Deut. 30; Josh. 24:15; Is. 1:18-20; Matt. 11:28-30; Rev. 22:17-cp. Is. 55).
- C. Who you serve, how you live, with whom you associate, and how you spend your time are all choices you make. The Bible recommends serving God, living for Him, influencing the world for Him while enjoying special fellowship with His people, and saying/doing everything by the authority of Jesus Christ.

II. Life is not about excuses.

- A. God is not a big fan of our making excuses in order to shirk serving Him according to His will (Ex. 3:11, 12; 4:1-9, 10-12, 13-17).
- B. Nothing controls you but you (1 Cor. 6:12-20; 9:19-27)!
- C. Just because we can't do everything doesn't mean we can't do something.
 1. Because we cannot serve God in the exact way we wish does not mean we should stop serving God (1 Tim. 2:12-15; Acts 1:23-26; 15:22; John 4:38 –cp. 1 Pet. 1:10-12 and Dan. 12:8-13).
 2. Service to God via persecution and even death is rewarded service (Rom. 8:36-Ps. 44:22; Rev. 6:9, 10).
 3. Consider the rewarded service mentioned in Matt. 25:34-40.
- D. Stop pointing the finger and pull the thumb (John 21:15-22).

III. Life has a purpose, so live it purposefully.

- A. Misunderstanding the purpose of life is the greatest of stumbling blocks.
 1. Those that reject God also reject purpose of life and find themselves hopeless and depressed; trying to fill the God-sized hole in their heart with that which does not satisfy.
 2. Those that admit God can apply their lives to the wrong purpose (Matt. 16:24-26; Luke 12:16-21; Matt. 19:16-26; 1 Kings 19; Is. 6).
- B. Understanding the purpose of life and not fulfilling it is the greatest of tragedies (Matt. 7:21-23).
- C. Understanding the purpose of life and pursuing it with all heart, soul, mind, and strength is a life well lived (peace and joy-Phil. 4:4-7) and one lived successfully (well done good and faithful servant, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world-Matt. 25:21, 34).

Conclusion:

1. God has given us our lives. He has informed us of its purpose. He has given us good to follow and bad examples from which to learn. He has come in the flesh and shown us the best way to live and how nothing can overcome such a life. He has prepared a reward for those who will pursue His purpose for our lives and lovingly invites all to come. What will you do?
2. Invitation.

MORE ON "LIVING ON PURPOSE"

1. God judges us on our choices (Heb. 9:27; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15; 3:1-6; 13:8; 17:8; Phil. 4:3).
2. God does not judge us by those things which we cannot choose.
 - A. The mentally disabled.
 - B. The lame will not be judged for being lame.
 - C. The poor will not be judged for not being rich.
 - D. But be wise to discern between what is truly a disability and what is unwillingness.
3. Excuses are like elbows, everybody has one but you can't stick it in your ear.
 - A. God, providentially, had prepared Moses for service. We too have been prepared for service. So, SERVE!
 - B. Tools must often be fashioned, so allow yourself to be fashioned (2 Tim. 2:19-21).
 - C. God is real, heaven is real, hell is real, the Bible is real, judgment is real = live like it!! Practical atheism is an abomination.
4. Find your purpose and apply 110% to it! Serve while you are finding your purpose and continue serving in all ways pleasing to God.
 - A. Rom. 12.
 - B. 1 Thess. 5:11-22.
 - C. Matt. 25:34-40.
 - D. Matt. 5:13-16.
5. Do not blaspheme God in disbelief or in disobedience (which is disbelief-Heb. 3:18, 19).
6. Instead, glorify God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength and be glorified with Him now (Rom. 8:30) and much more when He comes again to receive His own (Col. 3:4).