

40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 1

It All Starts with God

- It's not about you!
- Understanding this simple concept is crucial to this study...
- The Purpose of your Life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, peace of mind, or even happiness
- The Purpose of your Life is far greater than your family, your career, your ambitions, or even your wildest dreams
- To understand your Purpose you first must understand **God Manifestation**
- *What is God's Purpose?*
- Numbers 14:21 KJV
 - 21) But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.
- Habbakuk 2:14 NIV
 - 14) For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.
- **To Fill the Earth with His Glory...**
- That seems like an easy answer.
 - How does that work?
- God intends to fill the Earth with Immortalized Humans who have voluntarily chosen to give up their own free will in order to serve God's will
- That is what brings God glory
 - People acknowledging that His ways are better than our ways, and that we are willing to give up our own lives in order to serve Him
- We know that God's Purpose is even revealed in his Name

- Exodus 3:14 MSG

14) God said to Moses, "I-AM-WHO-I-AM. Tell the People of Israel, 'I-AM sent me to you.'"

- God Manifestation is a big phrase that we use to describe this very big concept
- God's Plan for the world involves us but it doesn't center around us
- John Thomas describes this nicely in Phanerosis:

*"Men were not ushered into being for the purpose of being saved or lost! **God Manifestation NOT Human Salvation was the great purpose of the Eternal Spirit.** The salvation of a multitude is incidental to the manifestation, but was not the end proposed.*

The Eternal Spirit intended to enthrone Himself on the earth, and in so doing, to develop a Divine family from among men, every one of whom shall be Spirit, because born of the Spirit, and that this family shall be large enough to fill the earth, when perfected, to the entire exclusion of flesh and blood".

- So, when we look for Purpose in our lives we need to look to God, not the mirror
- Too often we ask SELF-Centered questions:
 - What should I do with my life?
 - What do I want to be?
 - What are my goals for the future?

- You shouldn't be asking yourself:

"What's in it for me?"

- But, more appropriately:

"What's in this for God?"

- And what you'll see...

- Is that because He is amazingly loving and full of grace...
 - God has arranged this wonderful plan to work perfectly...

- ***You focus your life on service to God***

• And He focuses His love on blessing You

- We need to come to realize that God directs our lives

- Job 12:10 NIV

10) In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.

- God is the Creator

- You are not the creator

- You cannot therefore tell yourself what you are created for

- There is a great verse that talks about this...

- It speaks about Jesus, but we know that it applies to God also

- Colossians 1:16 NKJV

16) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

- Everything was created **BY** God and **FOR** God

- Life doesn't make sense until you understand that

- Too many times we try to figure this life out for ourselves

- The world is full of Self-Help books

- You can't progress much if you focus on yourself

- ***You won't find your life's meaning by looking within yourself***

- You will never achieve spiritual maturity if you only look within

- Romans 8:5-8 MSG

5) 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!

6) Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life.

7) **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.

8) And God isn't pleased at being ignored.

- Self-Help books are helpful and have their place...

- You can achieve much through the old reliable steps:
 - Consider your Dreams
 - Clarify your Values
 - Figure out what you are Good at
 - Set your Goals
 - Be Disciplined
 - Believe you can Achieve
- ***But achieving your goals, and reaching your life's purpose are two different things!***
 - You can be very successful, and reach all of your goals
 - And still miss the purpose that God created you for!
- Self-Help only goes so far...
- Matthew 16:24-25 MSG
 - 24) Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how.
 - 25) **Self-help is no help at all.** Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self.
- God has clearly revealed His Purpose for you in His Word
 - He isn't hiding it from you
 - He wants you to read and understand it
- We read about what Christ gave to us and come to understand our purpose
- Ephesians 1:11-12 MSG
 - 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,
 - 12) part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.
- It's **ONLY** in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for!
- This verse gives us 3 insights into our Purpose

- 1) You can only discover your Purpose through a relationship with Christ
- 2) God was thinking about you long before you ever thought about Him
His purpose for your life predates YOU. He planned it before you even existed, and did so without any of your input. You can choose your career, your spouse, and many other things... But you don't get to choose your purpose
- 3) The Purpose of your life fits into a much large Purpose that God has designed

POINT TO PRAY ABOUT THIS WEEK:

It's not about me.

VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:

"All things were created through Him and for Him." – Colossians 1:16 NKJV

QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:

*With all of the advertising around me that speaks to our lusts and desires,
How can I remind myself that life really about living for God, and not myself?*