

40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 40

Living With Purpose

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT FROM LAST WEEK:

*Balancing Your Life isn't doing equal parts of good things and bad things...
Balancing Your Life is doing equal parts of ALL the good things!*

• Four things you can do to keep your life in Balance:

- 1) **Talk to a Spiritual Partner**
- 2) **Give Yourself a Regular Spiritual Checkup**
- 3) **Write Down Your Progress in a Journal**
- 4) **Pass on What You Know to Others**

VERSE TO MEMORIZE FROM LAST WEEK:

• Oops

1)

QUESTION TO CONSIDER FROM LAST WEEK:

Which of these four activities did I begin on Monday?

• ***Anyone ever take a Philosophy Class?***

• If you think that Plato is the name of Mickey Mouse's dog, then you may not have ever heard these three questions before

• But, even if you have never heard them before, you may have already thought about them in some form or another

• And if you haven't, then you probably will some day...

• ***Who am I?*** • ***Why am I here?*** • ***What is the meaning of life?***

• Almost everyone struggles with one or all of these at one time in their life

- Even if you grow up in Sunday School, you eventually pose the question to yourself to see how your belief system handles it
- These questions struggle with the three basic issues of life and of our own existence
 - At their core, these questions are all really about yourself
- ***Who am I?*** deals with the question of **IDENTITY**
 - We all want to know what kind of person we really are
 - To get past all the lies and pretenses that we project for everyone else, and really know who we are
 - Beyond your lineage, beyond your occupation or your nationality...
 - Fundamentally, what kind of person are you...
- ***Why am I here?*** deals with the question of **IMPORTANCE**
 - It's hard to believe that this is all random
 - The mind wants to see pattern and logic in the world around us
 - We want to believe that there is reason and possibly even planning to why we are here
 - So what is it?
 - Why are we here?
 - What purpose do we serve?
- ***What is the meaning of life?*** deals with the question of **IMPACT**
 - There has to be some meaning to all of this
 - There has to be some direction, some goal, some purpose to why we are here
 - Why are we given 80 years on this planet?
 - What are we supposed to accomplish?
 - Which leads us to...
- How many of you really feel that you know what God's Purpose for you is?
- I find it a bit odd that when things turn really, really bad...

- When you are down to your last straw, sitting in the Hospital Room, at a complete loss for what to think...

- **THAT** is when we say things like,

“I just wish I knew what God wanted from me in this situation”

- Have you ever asked yourself that?
 - Have you ever found yourself in such a confusing, distressing situation that you don't know where you are going, and you ask God to clearly show you what He has in mind?
- Why don't we ask ourselves that question the **OTHER 364** days of the year?
- Why don't we spend some time figuring out what God's Purposes are for us in our everyday life?
 - Then we can serve Him more productively, more effectively, and with more passion and enthusiasm
 - Then we can serve him with Purpose...
- The Bible is actually quite clear about what our Purposes are here in this Life
- I feel that as you read through God's Word, you see that His Purpose for us falls into **FIVE** main categories
- Over the past 39 weeks, we've talked about:

WORSHIP

FELLOWSHIP

DISCIPLESHIP

SERVICE

PREACHING

- Now we need to ask ourselves some questions:

1) What will be the **CENTER** of my life?

- What will your life be focused on?
- What will drive you, and motivate you, energize you and recharge you?
- What one thing will you always come back to? Your True North? Your Home?

- Everyone has something
 - Often they are silly, immature or even unfruitful
 - For many people it's:
 - Harley Davidsons
 - Softball
 - An Online Community
 - Soccer
 - Neighborhood or even Childhood Friends
 - Cycling
- Effectively, this is the question of **WORSHIP**
 - Who are you going to live for?
 - Who are you going to build your life around?
- ***You can center your life around your family, your career, a sport, money, or a hobby***
 - ***None of these things are strong enough to hold you together when your life starts to come apart***
 - ***You need an unshakable center***
- You need God at the **CENTER** of your Life
- Ephesians 3:17 (NLT)
 - 17) And I pray that **Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts** as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love.
 - When you think about it... Whatever is at the center of your Life is your God...
- So, make sure that you have God at the center of your Life
- How do you tell when God is at the center of your life?
 - When God is at the center of your life
 - You **WORSHIP**
 - When God is not at the center of your life
 - You **WORRY**

- Worry is the warning light that God has been shoved aside in your life...
 - When you start to worry, then you should examine what you have placed at the center of life and make an adjustment
- Put God back in His proper place, and things will automatically quiet down
- Philippians 4:6-7 (Message)
 - 6) Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns.
 - 7) Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. **It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.**

2) What will be the **CONTRIBUTION** of my life?

- What will I give back to the World?
- What will I be remembered for?
- What will be my one thing that I am able to Give?
- How can I make a difference in this world?
- This is the question of **SERVICE**
- Each one of you is given a unique combination of Gifts, Passions, Personality and Past Experiences
 - Understanding these will help you to see what the best role is for you to play in the family of God
- 2nd Corinthians 9:12 MSG
 - 12) Carrying out this social relief work involves far more than helping meet the bare needs of poor Christians. **It also produces abundant and bountiful thanksgivings to God.**
- You can't help everyone...
 - But you have to help someone!
 - Anybody remember the Starfish Story?
- Choose whom you can best help, based on your individual spiritual makeup
 - What **Gifts** has God given you that other confirm you have?

- What are you **Passionate** about? You love doing it so much that you lose track of time when you are doing it...
- What kind of **Personality** do you have? Are you an introvert or an extrovert? Do you like working in teams or working alone? Are you a morning person, or a night person?
- What past **Experiences** have you had that qualify you to help others? Out of all the experiences we have, the painful ones are the ones that God uses most often...

3) What will be the **COMMUNICATION of my life?**

- What message am I sending out?
- When people see me what do I want them to think?
- What do I want people to know?
- What do I want to stand for?
- This is the question of **PREACHING**
- Our mission is to share our Life Story and the Good News with others
 - If you are a parent, your mission is also to raise your children to know God
- On Monday night we talked about **Your Life Story**
 - No matter how old you are, you have a **Life Story**
- That **Life Story** is what communicates to the world around you
 - Nothing is effective at preaching as **Your Life Story**
- Your life must validate and support the message you communicate
- ***Before most people accept the Bible as credible, they have to believe you are***
- Philippians 1:27 MSG
 - 27) Meanwhile, live in such a way that **you are a credit** to the Message of Christ.

4) What will be the **COMMUNITY of my life?**

- What group are you going to associate with?

- The world is a big place, and everyone carves out a community to spend their life with... Who are you going to spend your life with?
- Community speaks to the need to be a part of something bigger than you...
- Community speaks to the need to be responsible to others and to look out for others
 - To belong...
- This is the question of **FELLOWSHIP**
- ***How can you demonstrate your commitment to God unless you are connected to the family of God?***
 - It is in the Ecclesia that we get the opportunity to practice all of those “**ONE ANOTHER**” commandments...
 - Love one another
 - Honor one another
 - Provide for one another
- The more you mature, the more you will come to love the Body of Christ, and be willing to sacrifice more of your personal time to it
- Remember the example of our Lord
- Ephesians 5:25 (NASV)
 - 25) Christ loved the Church and **gave his life for it**
- You also need to commit yourself to being a member of an Ecclesia...
- 5) What will be the CHARACTER of my life?**
 - What kind of person do you want to be?
 - How do you want to be remembered?
 - What will people say about you behind your back?
- This really is the question of **DISCIPLESHIP**
- God is concerned solely with what kind of people we are
 - He doesn't really care how much money you make, how many medals you win, which buildings are named after you, and what your Net Worth is
- ***God is far more interested in what you are than what you do***

- You will take your character into Eternity, but not your career
- Begin with the End in Mind...
- Make a list of the character qualities that you want to work on and develop in your life
 - And then get to work at changing those things!
- THIS is the important list of all the lists you make in your life!
 - Climbing Mt. McKinley, Paying Cash for a New Car, Watching the sun set on the Eiffel Tower, Seeing U2 in Concert...
 - These things are all nice,... But, after the photo fades there is nothing left
- Concentrate on the one thing that you can change that will last forever...
- 2nd Peter 1:5-7 (Message)
 - 5) So don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding,
 - 6) alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder,
 - 7) warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others.
- Don't get discouraged and give up when you stumble
 - Don't go thinking that you are impervious to sin...
 - Have a healthy awareness of your own mortality...
- Be persistent...
 - Remember that it takes a lifetime to build a Christlike character!
- Paul told Timothy:
- 1st Timothy 4:16 (Message)
 - 16) Keep a firm grasp on both your character and your teaching. Don't be diverted. **Just keep at it.** Both you and those who hear you will experience salvation.
- It's harder to develop a character of Gold than a chest full of Gold...
 - But, it's worth more... So, just keep at it
- In my opinion, these are the **Important Questions** of your life

- And, in my opinion these questions are all answered by God's Purposes for you
- Continually pose these questions to yourself, and keep yourself on track...

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT THIS WEEK:

*Balancing Your Life isn't doing equal parts of good things and bad things...
Balancing Your Life is doing equal parts of ALL the good things!*

VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:

- Psalms 67:2 (NLT)

2) *May your ways be known throughout the earth, your saving power among people everywhere.*

QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:

What steps can I take to change myself into a World Class Christadelphian?