

40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 7

The Reason for Everything

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT FROM LAST WEEK:

This world is not my home.

Remember the verse... Don't make yourself cozy in it? It's important for us to use the things of this world to our best advantage, without getting hooked on them.

VERSE TO MEMORIZE FROM LAST WEEK:

"We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen." – 2 Cor. 4:18 NIV

That's the whole idea behind "Faith"... Is living your life looking at the things that are unseen... The really important things... And not being distracted by the things that are visible all around you.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER FROM LAST WEEK:

How should the fact that life on earth is just a temporary change the way I am living right now?

The answer seems kind of transparent doesn't it? If we really believe that the things around us aren't permanent then we wouldn't invest much of our time and effort into them...

- Remember our first class?
 - It's all about God
- Our ultimate goal is to bring Glory to God
- Everything that God created reflects His Glory in some way... All of creation
 - He wants the same from us
 - We are the hardest part, because we have "Free Will"
 - That also makes us the most important part...

- For us to understand God's Glory, we need to come to know his Son

- God's Glory is best seen in Jesus Christ

- 2 Corinthians 4:6 NIV

- 6) For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"[1] made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

- Hebrews 1:3 AMP

- 3) He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the [1] out-raying or radiance of the divine], and He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power. When He had by offering Himself accomplished our cleansing of sins and riddance of guilt, He sat down at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high,

- We don't "give" anything to God

- He is complete, and doesn't need us to "Give" Him Glory

- We are simply asked to recognize His Glory, Honor it, Declare it, Praise it, Reflect it...

- All sin, at it's root, is failing to give God glory

- It is loving anything else more than God

- Romans 3:23 ESV

- 23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- How do we bring Glory to God?

- Let's look how Jesus did it...

- John 17:4 MSG

- 4) I glorified you on earth, by completing down to the last detail what you assigned me to do.

- Jesus honored God by fulfilling His purpose on earth

- We honor God in the same way

- But, first, we need to know what God's purpose is for us

- I think that as we read through the Bible, it becomes very apparent

- I feel that as you read through God’s Word, you see that His Purpose for us falls into FIVE main categories
- These 5 Purposes are summed up quite nicely in two of Jesus’ sayings...
 - ***The Great Commandment***
 - ***The Great Commission***
- The Great Commandment is by Jesus’ definition the most important thing for us to remember
- Look at the set-up to this question...
- Matthew 22:34-36 NIV
 - 34) Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.
 - 35) One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:
 - 36) “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”
- If you were really wondering what is the one most important thing in the Bible
 - Stop wondering! Jesus is about to give you the answer...
- Matthew 22:37-38 NIV
 - 37) Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’
 - 38) **This is the first and greatest commandment.**
- Love the Lord your God
 - That’s it...
 - It’s that simple...
 - That is the first and the greatest commandment...
- And Jesus throws in the second as a bonus...
- Matthew 22:39 NIV
 - 39) And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’
- It’s here in the Great Commandment that we find the first 2 of our 5 Purposes...

- **“Love the Lord your God”**

- God’s first and most important Purpose for us is to **WORSHIP** Him
- We bring Glory to God by Worshipping Him, and Worship is the first Purpose that we will look at

- And the second is like it...

- **“Love your neighbor”**

- Second only to how we treat our Heavenly Father is how we treat each other... Ministering to the needs of those around us plays an important role in God’s Word, and **MINISTRY** is God’s Second Purpose for us

- We bring Glory to God by serving others with what God has given us

- In the Great Commission we find the other 3 Purposes that God has for each one of us, and the subject of our consideration this weekend

- Surely, you must agree that the last thing you tell someone is intended to stick with them

- What were Jesus’ parting words?

- What was the most important thing that he felt compelled to leave with us before he left?

- Matthew 28:19-20 NIV

- 19) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- 20) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

- I feel that all through the Scriptures we are instructed in 3 other Purposes that God expects from us, and I think that Jesus touches on them here in the Great Commission

- **“Go and make disciples”**

- The next most important Purpose that God has for us on this earth is preaching to those around us. **EVANGELISM** is quite clearly God’s third Purpose for us.

- We bring Glory to God by telling others about Him

- Jesus also told the disciples to spend their time

- **“Baptizing them”**

- Our religious services contains very few physical symbols. We have the Memorial Emblems of our Lord’s death. We also have the symbol of Baptism that makes up a large part of our life in Christ. Baptism is the root source of our fellowship together, and **FELLOWSHIP** is God’s fourth Purpose for us.

- We bring Glory to God by loving our Brothers and Sisters and spending time with them

- Jesus also instructs the disciples to concentrate on

- **“Teaching them”**

- The spiritual development of Christ’s disciples is very important to our Heavenly Father. He wants us to succeed in our walks towards His Kingdom. He wants us to be there to glorify His name for Eternity, and understands that it will only happen if we are transformed.

- **DISCIPLESHIP** is God’s fifth Purpose for us

- We bring Glory to God by becoming more like Christ

- Knowing God’s Purpose for you and living your life to fulfill it strengthens you

- Not knowing God’s Purpose for you and wandering around aimlessly tires you out

- Look at how Jesus was strengthened when he came to his moment of crisis:

- John 12:27-28 NASB

- 27) "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.

- 28) "Father, glorify Your name."

- Who are you going to live for?

- Yourself or God?

- God has given you everything you need to succeed...

- 2nd Peter 1:3 MSG

- 3) Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God.

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT THIS WEEK:

My ultimate goal is to bring Glory to God.

VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:

“Everything comes from God, and everything is for His Glory.” – Romans 11:36

QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:

Where in my daily routine can I become more aware of God’s Glory?