

San Juan church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About...

Life's Purpose

The question we need to ask ourselves is "how have we changed the world because of our life?" People have long wondered what the meaning of life is, but more importantly, what meaning is there to one's life. First, we need to understand that life in this world is brief. "Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil. Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain. Since his days are determined, the number of his months is with You; and his limits you have set so he cannot pass" (Job 14:1-5).

What we have gained in material possessions have been given to us by God, and we are to be good stewards of them. We need to recognize that God created us, "Know that the Lord Himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture" (Psm. 100:3).

So why are we here and is it to do as we please? Is it to personally gain wealth, possessions, land, education, etc.? Pursuits of worldly things have a habit of disappearing. "Do not weary yourselves to gain wealth, cease from your consideration of it. When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings like an eagle that flies towards the heavens" (Prov. 23:4-5).

Is our purpose to change the world? "Consider the work of God, for who is able to straighten what He has bent?" (Ecc. 7:13). Things such as poverty and world hunger will never be eradicated. Jesus said, "For you always have the poor with you" (Mark 14:7). Is our purpose to provide for our descendants? You have no idea if the one you are providing for after you die deserves it. "Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me. And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun" (Ecc. 2:18-19).

God's word explains the reason He created us in His image, which is to glorify Him. "Everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made" (Isa. 43:7). Another purpose of this life is to serve God and keep His commandments. Solomon wrote to "fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil" (Ecc. 12:13-14).

So what gives meaning to life, is it contented enjoyment? "There is nothing better for a man to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen that it is from the hand of God. For who can eat and who can have enjoyment without Him? For to a person who is good in His sight He has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, while to the sinner He has given the task of gathering and collecting so that he may give to one who is good in God's sight" (Ecc. 2:24-26).

We are to help others who are in need (Galatians 6:9-10) even when this help may not be appreciated (Luke 6:27-35). Our helping others in need will not be in vain (1 Cor. 15:58). We are to leave a legacy (Rev. 14:13) that people may be pleased to have known you (Prov. 10:7). People might forget us but "The righteous will be remembered forever (Psm. 112:6) because God does not forget what we've done (Hebrews 6:10-11).

Lastly, we are to leave fruit. "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples" (John 15:8). We have been commissioned to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:18-19). Therefore, we are to live a life serving our Lord, keeping His commandments, and glorifying His name.

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:

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