



**Explore God:
Does Life Have Purpose?**

September 17, 2023

What has made you think, "Life doesn't have any purpose."?

*Ecclesiastes 1:1 The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem: 2
"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.*

"Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

3 *What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun?*

4 *Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever.*

5 *The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises.*

6 *The wind blows to the south and turns to the north;*

round and round it goes, ever returning on its course.

7 *All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full.*

To the place the streams come from, there they return again.

8 *All things are wearisome, more than one can say.*

The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing.

9 *What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again;
there is nothing new under the sun.*

10 *Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new?"
It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.*

11 *There is no remembrance of men of old, and even those who are yet to
come will not be remembered by those who follow.*

1. Is life meaningless?

a. Life is _____ . Impact is _____ .

- *Psalm 39:4-6 "Show me, O LORD, my life's end and the number of my days;
let me know how fleeting is my life.*

5 *You have made my days a mere handbreadth;*

the span of my years is as nothing before you.

Each man's life is but a breath. Selah

6 *Man is a mere phantom as he goes to and fro:*

*He bustles about, but only in vain; he heaps up wealth, not knowing who
will get it.*

b. The places I look for purpose disa ppoint.

- *James 5:1-3 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. 2 Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.*

c. My perspective clouds _____.

- *2 Corinthians 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

2. God gives life _____.

- *Ecclesiastes 12:12-13 Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body. 13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.*
- *2 Corinthians 5:14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

a. God gives life an _____ perspective.

- *Proverbs 19:21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.*
- *2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

b. God gives a purpose that will not _____.

- *Jeremiah 29:11-12 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.*
- *Romans 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that*

condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

c. God gives a purpose that is bigger than self.

i. Love _____

- *Matthew 22:37 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.*

ii. Love _____

- *Matthew 22:39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’*

iii. Glorify God in _____ things

- *1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

3. How do I answer this question?

- a. You say that life has no purpose, I am curious what is making you feel that way?
- b. What do feel would give your life purpose?
- c. Would you be open to me sharing what gives my life purpose?

NEXT WEEK: Explore God! – Be prepared to answer, “Is there a God?”

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MY PERSONAL NOTES

SERMON REFLECTIONS: Apply to My Life

The thought the Spirit is leading me to focus on is:

The change the Spirit is leading me to work on is:

The action the Spirit is prompting me to take is:

My prayers today are:

Someone I would like to bless with today's message: