

LIVING ON PURPOSE

Ephesians 2:10 & John 17:18

September 30, 2007 Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION

A. In the late 1980s, Dr. Moorhead, a philosophy professor at Northeastern Illinois University, wrote to 250 of the best-known philosophers, scientists, writers, and intellectuals in the world. He asked each one, "What is the meaning of life?"

Dr. Moorhead published the responses in a book. Some of these thinkers offered their best guess, others admitted they made up a purpose for life, and a few honestly admitted they had no idea. A number of the intellectuals Dr. Moorhead questioned asked him to write back and tell them if he discovered the purpose of life!

B. Do you know the purpose of life?

1. We've been looking at what the Bible and Rick Warren in his book, "The Purpose Driven Life" says about life's purpose. Both say we have not one, but five purposes for living.
2. What are they? Review the five....
3. We've already examined the first three.
4. Today, let's see the other two.

I. THE FOURTH PURPOSE TELLS US WE WERE SHAPED FOR GOD'S SERVICE.

A. What does this mean?

1. It means we were made to make a contribution in life and not just be a consumer-Matthew 20:28.
2. How can we serve God, though? By serving others, especially other believers.

B. What does take to serve others?

1. First, we must be available to serve others.
 - a. Jesus made himself available to serve others.
 - b. His ministry has been called, "a ministry of interruption". He was willing to be interrupted by those he could serve.
 - c. This was also true of the Good Samaritan.
 - d. Is it true of us?
2. Second, we must be grateful if we are to serve others.
 - a. Jesus' ministry grew out of his gratefulness to God-John 11:41-42.
 - b. If God never did anything else for us in this life, we should still be willing to spend the rest of our lives being grateful to him.
 - c. We express our gratitude to God by serving others. We don't serve others, necessarily because they deserve it, but because of our gratitude to God.

II. THE FIFTH PURPOSE TELLS US WE WERE MADE FOR GOD'S MISSION.

A. Although our ministry (service) happens in the church, our mission is in the world.

1. Our ministry is primarily to believers.
2. However, our mission is primarily to unbelievers. This is called our "witness".

B. What does it mean to be God's witness?

1. It doesn't mean we were called to be his defense attorney, prosecutor or even salesman.
2. It simply means our mission is to tell people what God has done for us. Everyone can do that.

C. Where are we to be his witnesses? There are three answers to this question found in Acts 1:8.

1. First, we are to witness to those in "our" world.
 - a. This is what Jesus says-Luke 8:39.
 - b. This is our "Jerusalem" in Acts 1:8.
 - c. Why don't we do this?

- i. One reason is that we don't think the world wants what we have (Jesus).
However, a Gallop poll found that one out of every two people we ask to church will accept the invitation.
 - ii. Another reason is fear.
2. Second, we are to witness "beyond" our world.
 - a. Paul did-1 Cor. 9:22b.
 - b. This is our "Judea and Samaria" in Acts 1:8.
 - c. This is how we demonstrate our love for God-Matt. 25:35-36.
3. Third, we are to witness to the "whole" world.
 - a. This is what Jesus expects from us-Mark 16:15.
 - b. This is our "ends of the earth" in Acts 1:8.
 - c. We may not be able to do this ourselves, but we can help send others who can.

CONCLUSION

- A. God shaped us to serve him by serving other believers.
- B. God also gave us a mission to witness to unbelievers. Is anyone going to heaven because of you?
- C. Are we fulfilling our purposes for living? Acts 13:36.