

## PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE

Mark 12:30

September 9, 2007 Sunday A.M.

### INTRODUCTION

A. The Chicago Tribune reported this true story about a man named Bill Mallory who traveled to India to discover the purpose of life. Unfortunately, he didn't find the answer. After returning home, he noticed a sign at Chevron gas station that simply said, "As you travel, ask us." So every time he pulled into a Chevron station, he would look to the sign and say, "I'm a traveler. I'd like to ask you a question. What is the purpose life?" He got these real answers from attendants. The first guy said, "Sorry. I'm new here." The second guy said, "I don't remember anything in the manual about that." Another guy said, "I'm not much for church myself, sir." Most people just gave him a blank stare, cleaned his windshield, but Bill continued asking at all the Chevron stations.

One day he got a phone call from Chevron Customer Relations saying, "We understand you've been asking our dealer questions and getting unsatisfactory answers." The man suggested Bill write out his question and send it to Chevron Corporate with a self-addressed stamped envelope. So Bill Mallory wrote these six words, "What is the purpose of life?" and sent it to Chevron Gas Company. A couple of weeks later, he found his self addressed, stamped envelope in his mailbox. Had someone at Chevron finally answered his question? The only thing in it was an application for a credit card!

If you want to know the purpose of life, you are not going to find it in a gas station. You won't find it on a talk show, or in a self-help book. If you want to know the purpose of life, you need to look in the Bible.

- B. Actually, the Bible provides not one purpose, but five purposes for our lives.
1. These five purposes served as the basis of Rick Warren's best selling book, "The Purpose Driven Life" (2002). His book was the focus of "40 Days of Purpose", a forty day campaign carried out by churches all over America. Our "40 Days" was experienced in the Spring of 2004.
  2. What are our five purposes for living according to the Bible and Rick Warren?
    - a. First, we were planned for God's pleasure's
    - b. Second, we were formed for God's family.
    - c. Third, we were created to become like God's son.
    - d. Fourth, we were shaped for God's service.
    - e. Fifth, we were made for God's mission.
  3. Today lets look at our first purpose for living: "We were planned for God's pleasure."
    - a. This is what the Bible says-Psa. 149:4 & Rev.4:11.
    - b. The movie, "Chariots of Fire" is a true story of two British runners who competed in the Olympics in Paris in 1924. One of those runners was a Scottish sprinter named Eric Liddel, who later become a missionary to China. His sister wanted him to go to the mission field before and Olympics, not considering his running important. Eric's response to her was, "When I run I feel God's pleasure".
    - c. Do you feel God's pleasure as you live your life? God's pleasure-- whether you are running, working, raising children, whatever?
  4. Rick Warren says the most important thing in life to "know" is that God loves you. And the most important thing in life to "do" is to love God back.
  5. But how do we love God back?
    - a. Jesus tells us how in Mark 12:30.
    - b. Another word for this is "worship".
    - c. Worship is more than singing, praying, and preaching. Its loving God back!
    - d. Our first purpose then is to worship God.
    - e. Its been said that "if our worship isn't right, then everything else we do will be wrong".

- f. Notice three ways we can worship God right—three ways our worship pleases God. They are found in Mark 12:30.

**I. FIRST, GIVING GOD OUR ATTENTION PLEASES HIM.**

- A. This is what Mark 12:30 says—“Love God ....with all your mind”. This means to focus our mind, thoughts and attention on God—Romans 8:5-8.
- B. Why should we focus our attention on God? Because he focuses his attention on us—Psalm 139:1-3.
- C. How? At least two ways.
  - 1. First, by establishing and practicing a daily quiet time with God—Matthew 6:6. Many of us are more faithful to our newspapers than we are to God’s Word.
  - 2. Second, by developing regular conversation with God. This means to think about and talk to God during the week, not just on Sundays—1 Thess. 5:17; Psa 105:4; Isa 26:3.

**II. SECOND, GIVING GOD OUR AFFECTION PLEASES HIM.**

- A. This is what Mark 12:30 says—“Love God with all our heart and soul”
- B. Why should we love God so completely and intimately?
  - 1. First, because that’s the way God loves us—1 John 4:19.
  - 2. Second, because God wants our love more than anything else, including our service or our money—Hosea 6:6.
- C. How can we express our affection for God, though?
  - 1. First, by giving him our lives in salvation.
  - 2. Second, by verbalizing our love for him in worship. This is called “praise”.
  - 3. Third, by demonstrating our love for him by the way we treat others—Romans 5:8.

**III. THIRD, GIVING GOD OUR ABILITIES PLEASES HIM.**

- A. This is what Mark 12:30 says—Love God with all our....strength”.
- B. This means living a “god-centered” life on Monday through Saturday, not just on Sunday.
- C. Further, this means that we can please God with everything we do, not just our worship—Col. 3:23-24.

**CONCLUSION**

- A. The greatest mistake we can make in life is to miss our purpose for being here, our purpose for living—2 Cor. 5:9.
- B. One of those purposes says we were planned for God’s pleasure. We can bring him pleasure with our attention, affection and abilities.