

Purpose in Life

1- Objectives

- ❖ To have a clear understanding of what is our purpose in life
- ❖ To stay focused on our purpose in life
- ❖ To find the means to achieve our purpose in life

2- References

- ❖ “The Purpose Driven Life” by Rick Warren

3- Scriptural Verse

- ❖ “For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s” (Romans 14:8)
- ❖ “He has put eternity in their hearts” (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

4- Lesson Outlines

- ❖ It is very important that we stop every now and then and ask ourselves; what is my purpose in life? Why am I here? And what can I do with my life?
- ❖ It would be a great loss of our life if we do not have a clear vision or focus on the purpose of our life.
- ❖ God has created us with three main aims that we strive throughout our lives to achieve:

1. To have a close relationship with God

- ❖ God said in Mark 12:30 “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment”.
- ❖ God enjoys the relationship and friendship with man as He said that His pleasure is in mankind.
- ❖ God also sacrificed His only begotten Son to bring us into friendship with Him and reconcile us with Him: “We also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation” (Romans 5:11).

2. To serve Him and serve others

- ❖ Good works and service to others are natural results of true faith and close relationship with God: “For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13).
- ❖ The Bible clearly states that faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26).
- ❖ Serving the Lord and others can be in different forms and dimensions according to the different gifts and talents that the Lord has given everyone of us.
- ❖ Growth in the service will need discipleship and self discipline.

3. Our lives are nothing but a test to earn eternal life

- ❖ The main purpose of our lives is to win eternal life and a triumphant everlasting existence with God in heavenly Jerusalem.
- ❖ The Lord in His last address to the disciples tells them “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 4:12-13).
- ❖ The clever thief on the cross was able to win the entry to paradise in the last few hours in his life through his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God even in His weakest appearance on the cross “And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:42-44). How would you feel if these words were directed to you?
- ❖ The Lord reopened the paradise as a gift to humanity through His sacrifice on the cross. Can you imagine refusing or losing such a precious gift...!!!

Everyone will probably have his or her own additional spiritual goals in life but the above three remain to be the core goals. Different people will also attain the first two goals by different means and to different levels but we all pray to attain the third purpose of our lives.

5- Conclusion

- ❖ Let us stay alert to the purpose of our lives to believe, love and serve the Lord to attain our prepared place in heaven. Remember that any minute can be the last minute in your life.

6- Applications/Workshops

- ❖ Allow everyone a chance to express and discuss an additional specific purpose of his/her life and what they have done or will do to achieve them.
- ❖ Discuss with the group different ways of serving the Lord and others. Use example of saints that served others, e.g. St. Verena, St. Maximos and St. Demadios, mother Theresa, etc.
- ❖ Discuss with the group if faith, works or both are essential to enter the Heavenly Jerusalem. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5).