

Finding YOUR Purpose

Text: 2 Timothy 2:19-21 (NIV)

¹⁹ Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

²⁰ In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. ²¹ Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

Illustration: There is a relationship which makes life complete. Without that relationship, there is a void, a vacuum in life. Many people, even those who are well-known, can attest to that void.

For example, H.G. Wells, famous historian and philosopher, said at age 61: "I have no peace. All life is at the end of the tether." The poet Byron said, "My days are in yellow leaf, the flowers and fruits of life are gone, the worm and the canker, and the grief are mine alone." The literary genius Thoreau said, "Most men live lives of quiet desperation."

Ralph Barton, one of the top cartoonists of the nations, left this note pinned to his pillow before taking his own life: "I have had few difficulties, many friends, great successes; I have gone from wife to wife, from house to house, visited great countries of the world, but I am fed up with inventing devices to fill up twenty-four hours of the day."

--Morning Glory, May 29, 1993.

I. GOD HAS PLANS FOR ALL HE HAS CREATED (v.19).

A. Even those who do not know God has a plan for them are his creation.

What a shame it is to see people miss blessing that could be theirs?

Isaiah 55:10-12 (NIV)

10 As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
12 You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.

B. Those who know Him need to understand He has a purpose for their life.

The path to finding His purpose begins with consecration.

II. GOD HAS A SPECIAL PURPOSE FOR THOSE WHO CONSECRATE THEMSELVES (v.20).

A. God can use anyone to accomplish His purposes.

(example: Pharaoh)

Exodus 9:12 “But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said to Moses.” NIV

Exodus 10:1 [*The Plague of Locusts*] “Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these signs of mine among them...” NIV

B. Only the consecrated find His purposes.

III. GOD HAS A DISTINCT PLAN FOR OUR LIFE (v.21).

A. We do not find God’s purpose by popular opinion.

God did not create us to be imitators of others, but vessels for Him.

B. Who better to determine the purpose of a vessel than the creator of the vessel?

CONCLUSION

C.S. Lewis said, “The glory of God, and, as our only means to glorifying Him, the salvation of human souls, is the real business of life.”

This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one: the being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrap heap, and being a force of nature instead of a feverish selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

George Bernard Shaw, quoted in [Courage - You Can Stand Strong in the Face of Fear](#), Jon Johnston, 1990, SP Publications, p. 171.

Supplemental verses

Luke 7:30 “But the Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God’s purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)” NIV

Acts 13:36 “Now when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed.” NIV