

Answering the Big Questions of Life

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan 12th AM

Satan is a master at Distraction, Deception and Seduction. (Mt 7:14; John 8:44; 2 Cor 4:4; 11:3)
He seeks to move us away from the safety of God's will and ways (James 1:13-16), in order to accomplish his actual goal of our ultimate Destruction! (Mt. 7:13; John 10:10; 1 Tim 1:18,19)
If we hope to avoid spiritual shipwreck, we need clear answers to critical questions to enable us to navigate our Faith Journey with Clarity and Confidence.

Some of life's most important questions are about:

1. Existence: “Why Am I Here?”

A. Life Can Seem Frustrating Without This Answer. Jer. 20:18; Job 3:11; Ecc. 1:2

“*Vanity of vanities... All is vanity... under the sun*” (Empty) (mentioned 99x in the Bible)

B. We tend to Look For The Answers (reasons for life) In Wrong Places!

If we reject the reality of a creator, we're left to pursue:

1) The Mystical Approach: *Look within, Discover Yourself; Invent your own purpose!*

a) Create your own dreams/goals and pursue them, making you the god of your goals.

Jer 17:9 “*The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.*” See also Ro. 7:18

2) The Methodical approach: *Look around to find something you like, then Adopt a purpose!*

a) This leads to Doubleminded thinking and reactive, unstable living. (James 1:5-8)

3) The Philosophical Approach. Ask the experts and Accept a (their) purpose.

a) Maslow's hierarchy of needs 1943: *What if your purpose isn't just about you?*

C. We won't discover why we were created *without consulting the Creator!* Heb. 11:6

1) It's not really just about you or me! Pro 16:4 “*The LORD hath made all things for himself*”

a) We weren't created for our own purposes, pleasures, priorities, But God's! Rev 4:11

We were created to:

Have a consummate relationship with God (Jer 31:3); Cooperate (partner) with God in accomplishing His plans and purposes (Mt 11:29; 2 Cor 3:9; Eph 2:8-10);

and Conquer Satan's attempts to seduce, sidetrack, and sabotage you. (Ro. 8:35-39; 1 Jn 4:4; 5:4)

2. Significance: “Do I Matter?”

A. Levels Of Life (Where are YOU?)

1) Survival: (Reactive Living or “existing”) Mk 4:19

2) Success: (Proactive living toward temporary goals) Mt. 6:19-21; 7:13; Pr. 14:12)

To “succeed” at the wrong thing is ultimate *failure!* 1 Cor 3:9-15

3) Significance: Working toward Eternal Purposes. Mt. 6:20; John 15:16

B. Your Search For Significance begins when you:

1) Realize God created you for His Purposes/Significance. (Is. 42:1; Jer. 1:5 ; Ro. 8:28,29)

2) Recognize that God loves you actively and intimately. (Ps. 40:17; Is. 43:1-4; Jer 31:3)

3) Relinquish your claim to “run” your life. Pr. 3:5,6; 1 Cor 6:19,20; Mt. 16:24-27

4) Rededicate your life to God's purposes. Life is preparation for *eternity!* 2 Cor 4:17,18

We weren't created for just survival (to simply “cope”)

Or even for temporary success; (Lk 12:16-21)

but for eternal Significance! (Eph. 1→2:10)

Ro. 8:37 “*In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us...*”

3. Intention/Purpose: What's the Point?

What does God intend for me? Ro. 12:1,2

A. Life Without Purpose Is Pointless. Phil. 1:21 *"for me to live is Christ, to die is gain..."*
1) Without God, we have with no real purpose beyond survival and pleasure.

B. If you don't know the purpose of something, you'll usually end up misusing or abusing it.

- 1) Toys, tools, treasure (money) 2) Rules, relationships 3) Pleasure, Property, People

C. To Find Something's Purpose You Must Either:

1) Ask the Creator/designer Pr. 9:10 *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:"*

2) Read the "Owners" Manual. 2 Tim. 3:16,17; Ps 119:105

3) Actually Follow the instructions. James 1:22-25

a) This usually requires some "re-education". Ro 12:1,2

Conclusion:

Solomon was the "Wisest man" to ever live. With unparalleled resources, he set out to find purpose and meaning to life by pursuing his own purposes, pleasures and priorities. He recorded his "Search for Significance" in Ecclesiastes; discovering that pursuing these things **"Under the sun"** (apart from God) results in ultimate **"vanity" (Emptiness).** (Eccl. 1:2; 12:8)

He concludes this remarkable journey with this final lesson. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

2 Cor 5:10,11 warn of this same inevitable end and challenge/choice. (Vs 20)

Everything begins with God (Gen. 1:1); It's all sustained by God. (Col 1:16-19), and Someday this old world is going to end with God. (Rev. 20-22)

The reason so many are not "fulfilled" is because they're seeking it apart from Christ!

Application: The question of intention is actually two-fold:

1) What is God's intention for my creation?

Remember Ro. 12:1 (Dedication) comes before Romans 12:2 (Discovery)

2) In light of that, what is my intention? Will I

a) Partner (*Cooperate*) with God? (*Requires faith and a renovation of my soul.* Ro. 12:2; Ph. 3)

b) Pursue (*Concentrate on*) my own purposes? (Phil. 3:14-20)

➤ Naturalist: Purpose is to survive (1 Cor 2:14) *"receiveth not the things of the Spirit"*

➤ Hedonist: Purpose is to enjoy (Luke 12:19) *"eat, drink and be merry"*

➤ Materialist: Purpose is to accumulate. (Lk 12:20) *"thou fool..."*

In Acts 17:27-28 Paul stood addressed the "philosophers" who were searching for significance and told them: *"That they should seek the Lord, ... and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being"* (esmen': Hope!) *Who's your hope really in?*

How would (will) you honestly answer these Big (Biblical) Questions?

Acts 17:28 *"In _____ I live, and move, and have my being."*

Phil 1:21 *"For me to live is _____? Therefore, to die is _____?"*

Is the path you're on and the purposes you're pursue taking you closer to Christ and

His plans, Or further away? (Pr. 4:18-19; Ps. 16:11)

Your job is what you're paid for. *God's calling is what you're made for!* Eph. 4:1,2