

Sunday, February 5, 2023

Purpose

Ecclesiastes 1:1-9, pg. 553

Purpose Slide after Reading and prayer.

I remember as a kid, what I was affirmed at, I assumed was my purpose. I learned how to play Dungeons and Dragons as a kid. I loved making the maps! One summer I drew out plans for a dream house on graph paper and my biological father said I should be an architect... and my purpose in life was set!

It didn't take much to swerve my purpose though... My drafting teacher in HS, well, let's just say we didn't get along. In hindsight, it was because I was a rebellious punk, skater kid that shifted my purpose, but it was easier to blame him. So I went purposeless for a few years... Mostly living for pleasure but secretly wanting someone to affirm me so I could find purpose again.

What is your purpose? Or is there one? Is there a divine design for humanity or is it "vanity of vanities! All is vanity"?

Intro Series-Narrative Throughout this series our goal is to identify competing narratives to the "One true story" so that we may have a biblical worldview.

Week 1 we learned that competing Narratives address one or both of these...

1. Lowering God

2. Exalting man

Week 2 we learned to [Fact Check](#). *"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and **with all your mind** and with all your strength."* Mark 12:30

That the best way to identify counterfeits is to study the real thing.

-Dan and counterfeit \$100-Paul identifying it but simply feeling the paper.

This week we look at **Purpose**.

Here's some terms to help us out.

1. Teleology:the doctrine of design and purpose in the material world.

2. Nihilism:the rejection of all religious and moral principles, in the belief that life is meaningless.

3. Humanism:an outlook or system of thought attaching prime importance to human rather than divine or supernatural matters.

Teleology: Study of purpose / Nihilism: There is no purpose / Humanism: Man creates his own purpose.

And this is what our boy, Solomon, who likely wrote Ecclesiastes has done... He studied purpose.

-Given Divine wisdom and great success as the King of Jerusalem, he did great things, but he was able to look into those things with a unique perspective. Most get taken away with circumstance; money, relationships, success, pleasure. But like a Jedi, Solomon was able to see their vain pursuit.

Read Ecclesiastes. 2:3-9 *Note vs. 3 guiding with wisdom.

-Vs. 9, my wisdom stayed with me.

And what is his summary of all these pursuits?

Read Eccles. 1:3 & 9. "Under the sun"

-We need to look above the sun to find meaning OR we end up a Nihilist or a humanist.

-These world views can effect our faith. "What's the point?" The things we want, dreams we have, the image of "the good life", we see the warning of wise Solomon... These things are like the sea... **READ VS. 8**

"They won't bring the contentment you think they will... trust me." Solomon

When we face this existential crisis, we can begin to believe

1. The nihilist-What's the point, and give up.
2. The humanist-I'll figure it out on my own.

OR, we can have a biblical worldview and live for a higher purpose, above the sun!

What is mankind's purpose? To glorify God and enjoy Him forever!

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen Romans 11:36

For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:20

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11

What has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Fact-Check

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:11-13

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

We keep our eyes above the sun... and find our purpose!

Communion

Articles and Blogs used on the bulletin.

[What Does the Bible Say About Purpose](#)

[Why 'Sunny Nihilism' Isn't a Logical Option](#)

[Secular Humanism](#)