

PURPOSE IN LIFE

1 Cor. 4:1-2

What is my purpose in life? Why am I here? God has a definite purpose in mind for us, and He is working in our lives to accomplish that purpose. **Romans 8:28**, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” **2 Timothy 1:9**, “Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,”

In order to learn our purpose in life we must first determine our origin, where did we come from or how did we get here? We then need to determine our destiny, where do we go from here.

When we come to realize that God created us, we also realize that He requires certain things of us which we have refused to do. Because we have refused to obey Him we are in deep trouble and in danger of suffering His eternal wrath in a place called the lake of fire. At this point our destiny is not good.

We then learn the good news that Christ died for us and paid for our sins and then rose again from the dead. We also learn that God offers us salvation and eternal life as a gift.

It is only after we have received His gift of salvation through personal faith in Jesus Christ, that we can begin to understand why He made us. Our destiny is changed from eternal suffering in Hell to eternal bliss in Heaven. We can now learn and begin to fulfill our true purpose in life.

When God saves us, He does many wonderful things for us. He removes the penalty of sin and sets us completely and forever free from its judgment and punishment. He places us in Christ and justifies us. That means He declares us not guilty, and at the same time He declares us righteous. We do not have to pass the test in order to get into Heaven. Jesus Christ passed it for us. He gives us His nature and makes us His children by birth. He declares us sons and gives us the right to inherit. We are joint heirs with Jesus Christ of all God owns.

He gives us His Holy Spirit to be our Comforter. The Holy Spirit begins to dwell in our bodies at the moment of salvation. He never leaves us. He makes our bodies to be His temple and establishes His ownership of our bodies. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**, “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

It is here that we begin to learn our true purpose in life. We are to glorify God in our bodies and our spirits. **1 Corinthians 10:31**, “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

As we study the Scriptures to learn how to glorify God, we learn that we are His servants. God created us to be His servants. He set the example for us to follow. **Philippians 2:7**, “[The Lord Jesus] made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:”

In order to glorify God as He deserves, we must take our places as servants of God. **Romans 6:16-17**, “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine, which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” We are either servants of God, or we are servants of sin. There is no other choice.

A major function of a servant of God is stewardship. God appoints us as stewards of certain portions of His property here on earth. In order to glorify Him and fulfill our purpose we must be faithful and wise stewards. **Luke 12:42-44**, ‘And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that

servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.”

I. WHAT IS A STEWARD?

A steward is “one who is entrusted with the management of property, finances, or other affairs not his own; an administrator. He is one to whose care or honour anything has been instructed; a curator or a guardian or a governor; a manager or a superintendent of household or of household affairs; one to whom the head of the house or proprietor has entrusted the management of his affairs...”

A. Eliezer was Abraham’s steward.

Genesis 15:2, “And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? **Genesis 24:10**, “And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand....”

B. Joseph became Potiphar’s steward.

Genesis 39:4, “And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.”

A steward is “one who is entrusted with the management of property, finances, or other affairs not his own; he is an administrator not an owner.”

II. WHAT DOES GOD ASSIGN TO US TO MANAGE?

A. His temple

1 Corinthians 3:16, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” **1 Corinthians 6:19**, “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”

B. His mysteries

1 Corinthians 4:1, “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.”

- 1. We are responsible for the Word of God to the world.*
- 2. We must learn the truths of the Word of God.*
- 3. We must teach and demonstrate the truths of the Word of God.*

C. His manifold grace

1 Peter 4:10, “As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

- 1. We must receive His grace for ourselves.*
- 2. We must offer His grace to the lost.*
- 3. We must persuade other believers to continue in His grace.*
- 4. We must practice what His grace teaches us.*

D. Certain material things (Luke 16:1-13)

- 1. We are to manage money and other material things as belonging to God.*
- 2. We are unjust and unfaithful to God when we claim them for our own.*

III. WHAT IS THE PROPER ATTITUDE OF A GOOD STEWARD?

Two things make good sense. One, it is wise to be saved. When you honestly consider the consequences of not being saved, which is going to Hell forever, you must admit that it is the only acceptable course to take. Second, it is wise to be a faithful servant of Jesus Christ and take the matter of His stewardship seriously. The Lord asked the question, **Luke 12:42**, “... Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* lord shall make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of meat in due season?”

A. I am a servant to my Master, the Lord Jesus.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, “...ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

1. I belong to Jesus Christ.

2. I am specially marked off as His property (Eph. 1:11-14).

3. I am to glorify God in everything I do.

1 Cor. 10:31, “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

B. I am to fear my Master.

A good steward fears God. Solomon summed it up. **Ecclesiastes 3:14**, “I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth *it*, that *men* should fear before him.” **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**, “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.”

1. This is my source of true wisdom and right understanding (1 Cor. 3:18-20).

Psalm 111:10, “The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do *his* commandments: his praise endureth for ever.” **Proverbs 1:7**, “The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

2. This is my place of safety, blessing and increase.

Proverbs 14:26-27, “In the fear of the LORD *is* strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.” **Proverbs 29:25**, “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.” **Hebrews 13:6**, “So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” **Proverbs 19:23**, “The fear of the LORD *tendeth* to life: and *he that hath it* shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.” **Proverbs 22:4**, “By humility *and* the fear of the LORD *are* riches, and honour, and life.”

3. This is pleasing to the Lord.

Psalm 147:11, “The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.”

C. I am to seek to know my Master's will.

1. The Bible is my source of that knowledge.

2 Timothy 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2. The Bible becomes my daily guide.

Psalm 1:1-3, “Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

D. I am to fully yield myself to my Master's control (Rom. 12:1-2).

E. I am to realize that all I possess belongs to my Master.

Psalm 24:1, “The earth *is* the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.” **Exodus 19:5**, “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine.” **Deuteronomy 10:14**, “Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens *is* the LORD'S thy God, the earth *also*, with all that therein *is*.” **Psalm 50:9-12**, “I will take no bullock out of thy house, *nor* he goats out of thy folds. For every beast of the forest *is* mine, *and* the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field *are* mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world *is* mine, and the fulness thereof.” **Haggai 2:8**, “The silver *is* mine, and the gold *is* mine, saith the LORD of hosts.”

F. I am to remember that I will have to give and exact accounting to the Master.

We will be called upon to give an account of our stewardship personally to Jesus Christ. **Romans 14:12**, “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” **2 Corinthians 5:10**, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.”