

Message #1068  
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## "LIFE'S THREE GREATEST QUESTIONS"

{Psalm 139}

Trinity Presbyterian Church

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### INTRODUCTION

Last Sunday 80 people signed the covenant to become involved in the 40 Days of Purpose. There is still time for others to make that commitment. If you wish to join us on this journey you will find the forms on the counter in the church office.

...you can begin and follow one week behind those who have already made the commitment

...or you can try to catch up by reading two chapters a day for the first week.

Please take out your sermon outlines for we will be referring to these throughout the message.

Today we're going to look at life's three greatest questions...

1. The question of EXISTENCE--why am I alive?
2. The question of SIGNIFICANCE--does my life matter?
3. The question of INTENTION--what is my purpose?

### I. THE QUESTION OF EXISTENCE

#### WHY AM I ALIVE?

Jeremiah asked this question thousands of years ago...

"Why was I born? Was it only to have trouble and sorrow, to end my life in disgrace?" {Jeremiah 20:18}

...have you ever felt that way?

...was I born just to have a bunch of problems?

...was I put on this planet just to have heartache, grief and stress?

Dr. Hugh Moorhead, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at Northeastern University, wrote to 250 well-known philosophers, scientists, writers, and intellectuals of the world and asked them:

"WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LIFE?"

Dr. Moorhead later published a book with his findings--and it was most depressing and discouraging.

...some guessed

...some admitted they made up a purpose in life

...some admitted they didn't have a clue and asked Dr.

Moorhead for his response Carl Jung, the famous psychiatrist said: "I don't know the meaning, the

purpose of life, but it looks as if something were meant by it."

Let me tell you this morning--LIFE WITHOUT PURPOSE ISN'T A LIFE WORTH LIVING!

...mystics tell us to "look within and find life's purpose!"

...if that worked, all of us would know our purpose!

...it takes more than looking within!

There's the Philosophical approach--the survivalist says: "The purpose of life is just to stay alive!"

...the Naturalist says: "The purpose of life is just to perpetuate itself!"

...Rap Artist, Ice T wrote: "The only reason we're here is to reproduce!" Just chill and reproduce. Keep the species alive!"

...the Hedonist writes: "The purpose of life is pleasure-- have fun, party-hardy!"

...the Materialist says: "Life is all about the acquisition of things! Your life is measured by the things you own."

You know, the problem with that is "he who dies with the most toys, still dies!"

...none of these are really satisfying answers!

Many try the self-help approach. Go to any bookstore and you'll discover scores of books talking about finding life with a purpose and meaning.

...they all say virtually the same thing: "You've got to invent your purpose"

..."You've got to create your own purpose in life!"

We've all heard: "Discover your dreams...go after your goals...have some ambitions...dream big dreams... aim high... believe you can achieve...have faith...figure out what you're good at...and NEVER give up!"

...follow these and you could become successful in life

...but...being successful and knowing your purpose in life are NOT the same thing.

...you can become a raving success and still never know...

...why on earth you're here?

...what did God put you on this earth for?

The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment!

...it is greater than your own happiness

...it even supersedes your own peace of mind.

YOU WERE MADE BY GOD AND YOU WERE PUT HERE FOR HIS PURPOSES! Until you understand that, life isn't going to make sense!

So, you ask: Why does God want us here?

...why are we alive?

...why are we on this planet?

...is there a reason?

Read Proverbs 16:4 with me: "The Lord has made everything {circle "everything"} for His own purpose!"

...it is for His purpose that we exist!

...God has NEVER made anything without a purpose!

...every rock has a purpose

...every plant has a purpose

...every animal has a purpose

...and, IF you're alive--YOU HAVE A PURPOSE!

So, if you want to know if God still has a purpose for your life--check your heart!

...right now, check it out

...is it still beating?

If so, then God still has a purpose for you here on earth--as a matter of fact--He as

FIVE {5} purposes for your life that we're going to explore in the coming weeks--

FIVE {5} reasons why God placed you on

Planet Earth.

I want to this morning to see GOD'S MOTIVE. Look at the next verse: Ephesians 1:4 and read it with me...

"Long before He laid down the earth's foundation, He had us in His mind and settled on us as the focus of His love to be made whole and holy by His love!" {circle the words: "focus on His love"}

GOD SAYS HE MADE YOU TO LOVE YOU!

Write that down on your outline: "I WAS CREATED TO BE LOVED BY GOD!"

...God didn't need you

...God wasn't lonely

...God made you in order to love YOU!

...He didn't need you

...He wanted you!

Before we talk about anything else, you have to understand this is what on earth you're here for--to be loved by God!

## II. QUESTION OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DOES MY LIFE MATTER?

Isaiah asked this question in Isaiah 49:4...

"My work all seems so useless. I've spent my strength for nothing and for no purpose at all!"

You were made for MEANING. If you don't have meaning and purpose in your life and you don't know why God put you on this planet, life doesn't make sense!

We're all going through life at one of three levels.

#### 1. Survival Level

This is where most people live today.

...just barely getting by

...just existing

...they're just in a survival mode

...they're not living

...they're controlled by circumstances

...they put in their time and live for the weekend.

...they're just in a survival mode

#### 2. Success Level

This is where many of you are this morning.

...by the world's standards you've got it made

...you've got a comfortable living

...you're wealthy compared to most of the world today

...you have possessions

...freedom

...reasonable health

...but MANY of you are not fulfilled!

#### 3. Significance Level

How do you live at this level? You get there through three things...

1. You know the meaning of life--that gives significance!

2. You know how much you matter to God--that gives significance!

3. You know God's purposes for your life and you're living them out and that gives you significance.

If you want to know just how much you matter to God, Look at the next couple of verses in our outline.

God says: "I am your Creator. You were in My care, even before you were born."

{Isaiah 44:2}

...God was caring for you even as He thought you up!

Next verse {talking about God}--say it with me: "You scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in Your book."

...this is how much you matter to God!

...think of that the next time you find yourself on your pity-pot!

And--hear this--God wants you to know just how much you matter to Him.

...He wants you to know the meaning of life.

...He wants you to know His purposes

...He has extremely long-range plans for you

Look at the next verse: "His plans endure forever; His purposes last eternally!"

...His purposes are not just for this 40 day period

...His purposes last for ever and ever and ever and ever!

God says, "I have plans and purposes for your life...but they don't end with death!"

...when you die your heart is going to stop beating  
...that will be the end of your body  
...BUT THAT IS NOT THE END OF YOU!  
...you are made to last forever!  
...you're far more than a body.  
Psalm 33:11 says, "His purposes last eternally!"...and write this down and God says I  
WAS MADE TO LAST FOREVER!  
...made to be loved by God  
...made to last forever!  
...life is much more than the here and now!  
This life is preparing us for eternity. Notice II Corinthians 5:1--  
"When this tent we live in--our body here on earth--is torn down. God will have a  
house in heaven for us to live in. A home He Himself has made, which will last  
forever."  
...we will live with Him for all eternity  
...and He has prepared a place especially for you  
...that's how much you matter to God!  
...that's what gives life meaning!  
Look at the final verse in section 2--Proverbs 9:6--  
"Leave your impoverished confusion and live and walk up the street to a life with  
meaning!"  
So, the question is existence--why am I alive? God answers by saying:  
"I MADE YOU TO LOVE YOU, THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ALIVE!" The answer to the  
question of significance--does my life matter? God says, "YES, YOU MATTER...SO  
MUCH THAT I INTEND ON KEEPING YOU ALIVE FOR THE REST OF ETERNITY. YOU'RE  
GOING TO BE AROUND FOR A LONG TIME!"

### III. THE QUESTION OF INTENTION

#### WHAT IS MY PURPOSE

David asked: "Why did You create us? For nothing?" {Psalm 89:47}

...that's a key question

You see, when you don't know the purpose of something it is likely to be  
misused...or abused.

And, the only way you're going to ever know the purpose of something is to go to  
the owners manual--listen to what the creator/inventor has to say.

...and that's the only way we're going to know our purpose in life!

...not by listening to philosophers

...not by looking within

...not by self-help books

You've got to talk to the Creator and look in the owner's manual--IT'S THE ONLY  
WAY YOU'LL KNOW YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE!

The Bible {our owners manual} begins: "In the beginning GOD CREATED!"

The Bible says this {look at the outline and read with me Proverbs 9:10}...

"Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding!"

OK, you want to understand your purpose in life? Really? OK, write this down.

YOU FIND YOUR PURPOSE BY GETTING TO KNOW GOD!

...it all starts with God

...it continues with God

...it ends with God

Read with me our next verse from Colossians 1:16--

"For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible,  
everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him!"

And look at the next verse...

"It is in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for part of the overall purpose He is working out in everything and everyone!"  
If you want to know your purpose you start by getting to know God!  
...the more you know God, the more you're going to understand the ways and the wisdom of God...and  
the more you will understand the meaning and purpose of life!  
It's all about God!

#### CONCLUSION

Look at the last verse on your outline...

"It makes no difference who you are or where you're from--if you want God and are ready to do as He says, the door is open!" {Acts 10;35}

God wants you to know His purpose for your life.

...He wants you to know Him

...So, let's ALL talk to Him together right now

Pray with me...

"Dear God, I realize that if it weren't for You, I wouldn't be alive.

But because You made me, You must have a purpose for me. I admit that I focused on my plans for my life, not Yours. But I want to know Your purposes for me, so I'm making a commitment these 40 days to learn about it. Thank you that You made me so You could love me. Thank you that You cared for me even when I didn't know You. Thank you that I was made to last forever. I want a life filled with meaning. I want to start by getting to know You better. So, as best as I understand, I ask You, Jesus Christ, to come into my life and help me to understand your purposes for me. I want to take the first step today. In Your name, I pray. Amen."