

Finding Purpose in Life

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might ..."
~ Ecclesiastes 9:10a

AN ORDINARY LIFE

Sadly, many people spend their entire lives aimlessly wandering through life. They have no lasting purpose or direction. Their existence lacks meaning. Meaningless repetitive activities make up their days, weeks, months, and years. These are characteristic of the natural man, whose life is but vanity – an ordinary life – an empty, hollow shell of humanity.

OUR UNIQUE INDIVIDUALITY

Yet God has something better! Each of us is uniquely special before God. That's because He made us that way! We are His distinct handiwork, as unique as the individual snow flakes, as different as each set of finger prints.

Don't waste life trying to be something other than what God has made you! The world will try to corral you like cattle. Dare to be that special person that God has made you in Christ!

There is a reason that we are alive. There is a reason that God has made us uniquely different. God created us so for His *own* pleasure.

"Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:11b).

Therefore, that is ultimately the *divine* purpose of our lives – to bring God pleasure. But, because of Adam's fall, man cannot *naturally* bring pleasure to God.

"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:8).

AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE

But this is not the end of the story. In Christ, the One Who always pleases the Father, we too can bring God pleasure.

“This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

“I do always those things that please Him” (John 8:29).

Our means of bringing God pleasure is through a life and walk of faith. In fact, it is the *only* way.

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

“Whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23b).

As we take God at His word, trusting Him to live in and through us, we are able to bring glory to God in the *details* of our daily lives.

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him” (Colossians 1:10).

“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 3:17).

It is God Himself Who brings about this work in our lives. He desires to live His *own* life through us. He lives in us to work toward this lofty end. And His work is designed to produce His *will* in us, and then the ability to *accomplish* it! And the results are *His good pleasure!*

“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13).

CONTRASTING LIVES

Pleasing God is the *only* thing that can bring *real* purpose and meaning to life. *All* else is vanity and emptiness. These are two contrasting existences – human life and divine life.

The vanity of purely human life –

“Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

The lasting abundance of divine life –

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (I Corinthians 15:58).

Allowing God passage to live His own life through the *everyday* details of life is the only way to have real and *lasting* purpose in life. And this divine life flows through the most *basic* elements of our lives.

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (I Corinthians 10:31).

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men” (Colossians 3:23).

His life in us will lift us abundantly above the ordinary – to the extraordinary.

“Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Ephesians 3:20).

BE THE REAL YOU!

Don't settle for an imitation. God designed you uniquely different – not with a cookie-cutter. Don't measure yourself, nor allow yourself to be measured by the life of others.

“They measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” (II Corinthians 10:12).

Allow God to live His divine life through the uniqueness of whom God has made you!

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Life is too short to miss the *real* thing – Enjoy it!

Taken from the *Bible Student's Notebook*™, a weekly Bible study publication available in two formats (electronic and printed)

www.BibleStudentsNotebook.com

Study Shelf, PO Box 265, Windber, PA 15963
1-800-784-6010 / www.StudyShelf.com

B I B L E S T U D E N T ' S P R E S S™
W i n d b e r , P e n n s y l v a n i a

