CHAPTER ELEVEN - MY PURPOSE:

TO FULFILL GOD’S PURPOSE

“Noth as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:12 KJV

The Scotch catechism says that man’s chief end is “to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” But we shall then know that these are the same thing. Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him.

C.S. Lewis, Reflections on the Psalms

The man in the cartoon who walks up to the information booth to ask, “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?” can now be answered. We are beloved children of God, created to be in such vital relationship with Him that we find fulfillment in yielding to His purposes and joy in proclaiming His glory. To live with the assurance that our heavenly Father is personally involved in accomplishing His purpose of conforming us to the image of Christ gives us hope and peace. This perspective on life is not easily explained or understood, but it is God’s precious gift to those who deeply love and trust Him and want His purpose above all else.

My Purpose: To Fulfill God’s Purpose

1. Deuteronomy 4:9 reminds us, “Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons’ sons;” If we truly desire God’s purpose, what are some practical ways of “keeping our souls” so that His ways do not depart from our lives? Study these verses and record the ways that will enable us “to keep our souls diligently.”

Psalm 63:1-5

Proverbs 3:1-12

Do not yield to the temptation of looking at everything at once, as if everything would happen at once, and all the events of the day be crowded into an hour. Do not thus forecast, but take each thing as it comes to you, and look upon it as the present expression of the will of God concerning you; then regard the rest in the same way, and thus receive your day piece by piece from Him who will remember always when He gives you work to do, that you need strength to do it.

Priscilla Maurice

2. Jesus told His disciples, “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” (John 14:5). Abiding in – remaining in, holding fast, continuing in – Christ is foundational to becoming a woman of purpose. What do these verses tell us about how to abide?

John 8:31
3. What are some practical ways you can consistently abide in Christ on a daily basis in order to begin to practice those things that will nurture your soul?

4. There is only one relationship that matters and that is your personal relationship to a personal Redeemer and Lord. Let everything else go, but maintain that at all costs, and God will fulfill His purpose through your life.

   *Oswald Chambers*

5. Just before Jesus ascended into heaven, He instructed His disciples to continue His work on earth. What do these Scriptures tell us about an essential part of fulfilling His purpose?

   *Matthew 28:18-20*

   *Romans 1:16*

   There is a glorified Man on the right hand of the Majesty in heaven faithfully representing us there. We are left for a season among men; let us faithfully represent Him here.

   *A.W. Tozer*

6. A good summary statement of this study could be that God is always at work in our temporal circumstances to bring about His eternal purposes. Write a brief paragraph stating your understanding of what your purpose in life should be.

7. What does a woman of purpose look like? I think a good description is found in Romans 12:9-21. Read this passage and write down the characteristics of a godly woman who brings glory to God.

   *“A Puritan Prayer”*

   O God of the highest heaven,
   occupy the throne of my heart,
   take full possession and reign supreme,
   lay low every rebel lust,
   let no vile passion resist Your holy war;
   manifest Your mighty power,
   and make me Thine forever.

   You art worthy to be praised with my every breath,
   loved with every faculty of soul,
   served with my every act of life.

   O help me then to walk worthy of Your love.
AUTHOR'S REFLECTION – I often ask myself the question, “Why do I get up in the morning?” In answering this question, I am reminded daily that my purpose is to get up, set my heart, mind, and soul before the Lord, and walk through the day trusting in His grace and yielding to His plan for my life. This is easy to write, but not easy to do.

I don't like life when I’m hurt, when people won’t do what I think they should do, when people I love make wrong decisions, when I’m denied what I think is best. As I look at this last sentence, it is full of “I's.” That is the key to understanding my purpose – it is not my purpose or my life – it is God’s purpose and God’s life.

I don’t want to just “make it” through life trying to grab or manipulate a little peace and happiness as I can. I want the very best that God has to offer while I am here, and I want to offer Him my very best, no matter what my circumstances might be.

I want to stay focused on the things that are eternal: God, Himself, His Word, and people. I want my abiding to grow deeper and deeper so that as others observe my life, they will give glory to God. I want to have the compassion and boldness of Christ in relating to others. This is precious fruit of His Spirit, and it is given only as I abide.

I get up in the morning to become conformed to the image of Christ. What will I give in order for God to accomplish His purpose in me? All that I have and all that I am.

There is nothing quite as exhilarating as getting out of bed in the morning, going back into the world, and knowing why. Enthusiasm is derived from the certainty that for this I was born, and I am doing it! It is thrilling knowledge that I am fulfilling God’s intended purpose for me.

Bill Hull

My Purpose: (For Contemplation and Prayer)

8. Over the next few days, think about how you are fulfilling God’s purpose for your life. To help your reflection and application, carefully consider the verse below.

“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”

Acts 20:24

Use these questions to guide your meditation.

9. How does my life testify to the gospel of God’s grace?

10. How am I fulfilling God’s eternal purpose for my life?

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE MEMORY: Acts 20:24

Are we willing to give ourselves entirely to God; to let Him do with us whatever He pleases; to follow anywhere at His bidding; to renounce anything at His call; asking only, in return, that He will give us Himself, with all His infinite love, to be ours from this time forever? If we are thus willing, let us kneel down at this moment and tell Him so. Alone with God, let us give Him ourselves, all we
have and are and shall be, to be unreservedly His.

William R. Huntington

CHAPTER ELEVEN - SCRIPTURE VERSES

Psalms 63:1-5

1. O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; 2. To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. 3. Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. 4. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. 5. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:

Proverbs 3: 1-12

1. My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: 2. For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. 3. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: 4. So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. 5. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. 7. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. 8. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. 9. Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: 10. So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. 11. My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: 12. For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

John 8:31

31. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

John 15:10

10. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.

Jude 20-21


Matthew 28:18-20

18. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Romans 1:16

16. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
9. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. 10. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; 11. Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; 12. Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; 13. Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. 14. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. 15. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. 16. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. 17. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19. Dear beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.