

EVANGEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

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Sunday Worship 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

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A Purpose That Captivates The Heart

The soul that has no established aim loses itself. The great and glorious masterpiece of man is to know how to live to purpose. We were made to live for purpose. God Himself lives for purpose. The way to live with significance is to devote your life to a purpose that is larger than your life; the secret of success is constancy to purpose.

By “purpose” I mean that which one sets before himself as an object to be obtained. The apostle Paul speaks of his purpose in Philippians 3:10, “That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.” He continued, “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” He said, “I consider all things to be loss in view of the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.”

While each of us has many little purposes which define and determine our daily activities, we must also have an understood purpose that is big enough to take in every dimension and aspect of our lives. This purpose must be worthy of our lives and it must captivate our imagination, fire our affections and limit and direct our passions.

When I was sixteen years old, I met a boy about my age whose purpose it was to be a millionaire by his twenty-first birthday. Many are captivated by wealth. The one who has great wealth, it is thought, has no worries and his life is fulfilled. Many have found, however, that wealth promises far more than it can provide. Jesus said, “Not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.”

God has a particular purpose in mind for His creation, especially for man. The Bible is replete with references to God’s purpose. All God’s creation obeys His commands and pursues His purpose, that is, except man. Man is the only part of God’s Genesis creation that can disobey God and give himself to a purpose for which he was not intended.

Throughout history God has held out an invitation to all men to share in His eternal purpose. He has offered that which can fulfill man’s deepest longings and undermine his deepest fears.

Through the centuries many have subscribed to the call of God. Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish.” Those who follow Jesus Christ have one primary purpose that dominates them. While they have countless lesser purposes each day, these feed into one great, overriding purpose. Their purpose is to know God and to live all of life under His gaze. That’s another way of saying we live according to His Word.

This purpose is truly worthy of our whole lives. To pursue it requires ordering our affairs by God’s counsel. It requires denying our appetites and desires when they would lead us contrary to God’s Word. Living out God’s purpose means serving the Lord whether we feel like doing so or not, whether or not it is popular and even when doing so produces rejection or any other kind of difficulty.

The rewards, both now and forever, are more than adequate compensation. The apostle Paul suffered a great deal because He insisted on honoring Jesus Christ, but he said, “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”